

Summit Public Schools

Holocaust Education

Elementary Schools:

- Social justice units of study in which students read literature with social justice issues and engage in guided discussion on such
- Social studies units of study including immigration studies, slavery and other historical topics
- A comprehensive study of the Holocaust spans our reading and writing in the 5th grade
- Our Take a Stand curriculum and lessons, which teach students to stand up for one another and support every student in our school
- Individual classroom lessons on the value of diversity

Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School:

- A comprehensive study of the Holocaust is part of our 8th grade ELA curriculum.
- Throughout the year there is a focus on the theme of social justice/injustice. In the winter, students read *The Diary of Anne Frank* while simultaneously answering Holocaust related questions through journaling and reflections. Research is provided by the Media Specialists for this time period. *The Boy Who Dared* is offered as an additional read. Students then choose their favorite journal entry/reflection (10 required) and we create a collection that is gifted to The Holocaust Council of Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest for a program called “Survivors Speak.” Each year we host an assembly program through this Federation whereby ‘Survivors’ come to the middle school and address the 8th grade students recounting their personal experiences. A variety of Holocaust-related vocabulary
- Some additional activities are learning about the stories of Max Schmeling, Kristallnacht, the Hindenburg, and Miep Gies
- Reading excerpts from Elie Weisel's Night
- Auschwitz and concentration camps discussion on / commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day
- Historical discussions of the Anschluss and the Nazis - which includes an in-depth cautionary tale about the hate symbol known as the swastika / discussion of propaganda / discussion of the Allies and the Axis
- Literature circle program this year that will center around the Holocaust. Through the lenses of the novels: *Night*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *The Boy Who Dared*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*, students will explore first-hand experiences of the Holocaust in order to internalize and understand the gravity of the atrocities committed during this abhorrent tragedy. This unit ties into our guiding theme of cultural awareness and acceptance, which is covered across the curriculum throughout the year.

Summit High School:

World History- 9th Grade

It is included in our 9th grade World History Unit on World War II which is part of Unit 3 "Crisis and Achievement" of the curriculum. The focus is on how the Jewish population was targeted, the systematic nature of it, where death camps were located, transport to Eastern Europe, and the attempted total destruction of the Jewish people.

U.S II 11th Grade

It is included in our 11th grade U.S. II overall unit on World War II- usually taught as a separate part of the unit at the end-to make sure it stands out. The examination of the Holocaust here builds on what students learned in World History. In addition to looking at the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis, more emphasis is placed on looking at the role of collaborators, resisters, bystanders, and government policies in the process. Included in this is an assessment of the effort/lack thereof that other countries exerted to save the Jewish population.

All US II students(juniors) have attended an assembly that features Holocaust Survivors. This is coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Metrowest NJ. SHS was honored by this organization several years ago for consistently featuring this program.

Holocaust & Genocide Studies- 11th-12th Grade, 1 Semester Elective

Holocaust is the focus of the course, which then transitions to looking at other genocides. Students in enrolled in this course, visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

AP European History 12th Grade Elective

Anti-Semitism is a recurring theme (regrettably) throughout the course. As determined by the College Board, not a lot of time is dedicated to the events of Holocaust (but students have studied it at least 2x already).

Through an analysis of literature in English classes at all grade levels, students read about various topics that focus on understanding and empathizing with how others see the world similarly or differently than we do.

Grade-level assemblies and programs including Mykee Fowlin, DIRT, and Challenge Day that raise awareness of discrimination, racism, stereotypes, intolerance, and oppression for all races, ages, sexual orientation, gender, and religions.

Additional Resources:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/>

<https://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/resources/>

<https://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/curriculum>