



African American Humanities

Presented to the Board of Education
April 25, 2018

Meet the Teachers

Huron

- **Anthony Stewart** - 17 years teaching; 10 years teaching African American Humanities, AP Government(10th), and Economics(10th)
- **Kimberley Wright** - 24 years teaching; 10 years teaching African American Humanities (10th), African American Literature 11/12, English 10, Extended Essay Coordinator for Diploma Programme

Pathways

- **Musetta Deneen** - 5 years teaching; 1st year African American Literature, Spanish (1 and 2)

Pioneer

- **Ameer Daniel** - 19 years teaching; teaching African American Humanities (11/12th), English 10, and American Literature (11th)
- **Sophie Hart** - 3 years teaching; 2 years teaching English in Rwanda, teaching African American Humanities (11/12th), World History and Geography (9th), and U.S. History (8th)

Skyline

- **Kathy MacKercher** - 22 years of teacher; 7 years teaching African American Humanities
- **Kay Wade** - 47 years of teaching; 20 years teaching African American Humanities
- **Tonya Whitehorn** - 18 years teaching; 7 years teaching African American Humanities, Rising Scholars Coordinator

History of the Program

African American Humanities started in 1997 with Kay Wade and Krystal Hall. It was designed to tap African American students who were underachieving. The teachers provided the tools and encouragement for students to eventually succeed in future advanced courses.

Enrollment

- There are three Humanities programs (Huron, Pioneer, and Skyline). Between the three schools there are currently 91 students enrolled.
- There are a total of three African American Literature courses (Huron, Pathways , and Pioneer). Between the three schools there are currently 76 students enrolled.
- Enrollment is projected to double for the 2018-2019 school year
- First time this summer, Anthony Stewart and Kimberley Wright are teaching African American History

Course Objective (Huron, Pathways, Pioneer and Skyline)

The course offers an overview of African American History, Literature and cultural expression in the United States from the 17th century to the present. In addition, we make a comparison with similar experiences in the African Diasporas. This class is open to all students. We welcome allies of all races, genders, religions and class.

Skyline Eagles Huron Pioneer

Pathways



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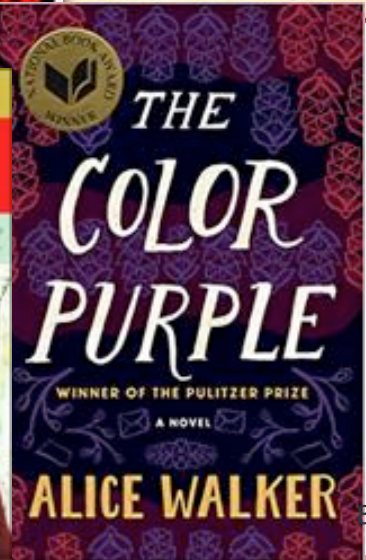
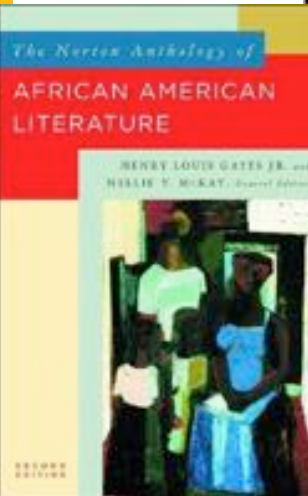
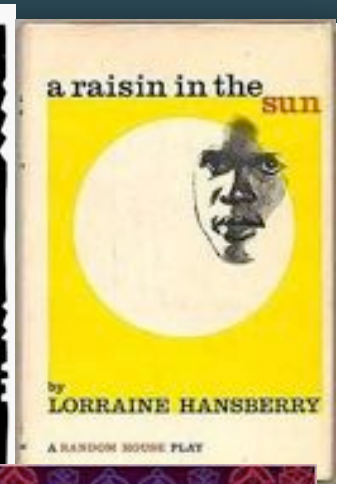
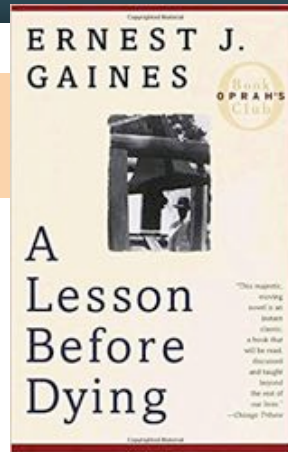
- Skyline has a two trimester course for seniors.
- Huron (10th) and Pioneer (11/12) have year - long courses (two semesters of English and two semesters of U.S History (Huron) and social studies elective (Pioneer).
- Pathways has a semester - long course of English.

Common Teaching Themes

- Power, and Ideology
- Identity - Inclusion, Distinction and victimization
- Oral History/Griots and written
- Freedom and Liberation/Social Justice
- The African Diaspora (Cultural Focus)
- Jubilation and Empowerment

Literary Exploration

Literature provides a context for which to anchor discussions, projects, and out-of-class experiences. Selected texts offer our students an African American perspective on the aforementioned teaching themes. Additionally, our curriculum allows the opportunity for all programs to explore individual student interests.



Common Texts

11/12th Grade

- **Native Son** by Richard Wright
- **The Pact** by Davis, Hunt, and Jenkins
- **Raisin in the Sun** by Lorraine Hansberry
- **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker
- **The Glory Field** by Walter Dean Myers

Supplemental Readings from:

- **Between the World and Me** by Ta’Nehisi Coates
- **Makes Me Wanna Holler** by Nathan McCall
- **The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander

10th Grade

- **Color of Water** by James McBride
- **Kindred** by Octavia Butler
- **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston
- **Piano Lesson** by August Wilson

Prentice Hall Anthology of African American Literature



History

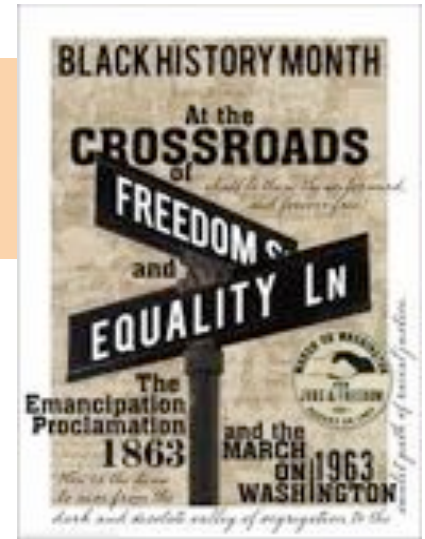
Black history does not begin with slavery

Topics Covered Include:

Trials and Triumphs Over Time
Institutionalization of Racism and Segregation
Hypocrisy in U.S. Laws
African Diaspora
Enslavement
Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance
African Americans in War
Civil Rights
Post Civil Rights

Skills Developed:

Primary Source Analysis
Analytical Writing
Discussion Skills
Critical Thinking
Research
Presentation Skills
Persuasive Argument



Psychology and Issues of Health and Mental Health

Dr. Byron Douglas

Ann Arbor Public Schools



Integral part of current programs at Huron and Skyline

Founding Member of African American Humanities

Afrocentric Psychology

Co-Teaching Model: Skyline High School



**Teaming Model
Inclusive**

Real World Experiences

Active Learning--enhancing classroom content through visiting exhibits highlighting the African diaspora, empowering students to understand the world more deeply.



Overview: AAPS High School African American Humanities Course



Overview: AAPS High School African American Humanities Course

ART Connection





Music Connection through Jazzistry with Vincent York at Huron

The Jazzistry program provides students with an opportunity to experience America's rich history of Jazz . The program provides a platform for students to synthesize four centuries of historical events with the evolution of Jazz music.

The program also helps students find their own voice and make connections with the units taught in class allowing for expression through poetry, dance, music and other artistic forms of expression. This intersection of artistry and history highlights diversity as a strength in America's identity.



Music Connection through Jazzistry with Vincent York

Huron sample performance



Robin Wilson

Associate Professor of Dance U of M



Robin Wilson is best known as a founding member of the Urban Bush Women.



Cultural Expression

Black History Assembly

Student Feedback

“I had not known the depths in which racism impacts us. There were psychological impacts on even myself that I was unaware of.” Tamia Morton

“This class has given me more than any class since elementary. The knowledge given to me about the history of my people is invaluable.” Darryn Davis

“I’ve broadened my horizons in terms of thinking, and I’ve fully found my voice. The sense of pride, intelligence and family that comes with this class is one that cannot be exchanged.” Princess Ewang

“I have wanted to be in this class since freshman year. I enjoyed working with everyone and hearing their ideas and perspectives.” Medina Muhammad

Opportunities for Support

- ❑ Art, Music, and Dance
- ❑ Joint field trip opportunities
- ❑ Pathways--expansion of the program
- ❑ Service/action component