

BHS Diversity Weeks 2018

January 29-February 2
April 2-April 6

Overview of “Diversity Week”

- Tradition at BHS coordinated by volunteer faculty since 2000 (off and on) --in 2017 and 2018 by the Diversity Week PLT
- A series of presentations offered over the course of the week as assemblies for groups of various sizes
- Teachers elect to bring classes to the programs space permitting.
- Presentations are designed to engage and challenge students and faculty to encounter people and ideas from outside their realms of knowledge and experience, and sometimes even their comfort zones.
- Challenge: It’s our district wide goal to engage in courageous conversations this year. Consider bringing your classes to a Diversity Week program and following up with a courageous conversation in your classroom!

January 29-February 2 Programs

- *Regie Gibson (Slam Poet)
 - *Raúl Gonzalez (Graphic Novelist)
 - *Minding Your Mind with John Mattleman
 - *Marc Mamigonian on the Armenian Genocide
 - *Laura Wooster -- Professional Psychic Intuitive & Medium
 - *Mark O'Leary from Cambridge Zen Center on Buddhism
 - *Mormonism Panel -- Tina John, BHS students, + Parent
 - *BHS GSA panel -- Current BHS students & Alumni
- + Lunchtime Dance Party & T-Shirt Day

Warm Student Feedback

- *Coverd a lot of topics
- *Liked learning new things
- *Spurred conversation
- *Shows BHS cares about and accepts everyone
- *Feel more aware of my community
- *Liked shirts and how the week made us feel more united as a community
- *Interesting to empathize with other people's perspectives
- *Appreciated everyone's hard work

Cool Student Feedback

- *Many students didn't get to attend events, or the events they wanted to
- *Would like events to be more interactive; less "lecturing"
- *Would like more uplifting topics
- *Would like more student speakers/more students involved in planning
- *Cover more topics
- *Confusion about what "diversity" means -- only oppressed groups? How did some events relate?
- *Wish events were held in smaller groups
- *Include ways to experience other cultures (activities, concerts, food, dance, etc.)

April 2-6 Programs

- Students Against Teen Dating Abuse
- Armenian Panel
- Different Learning Styles
- Hunger Banguet
- Black In Belmont/METCO Student Presentation
- Boston Latino International Film Festival
- Many Voices & Talents of BHS Students
- Belmont Idol (fundraiser)

Looking toward next year:

- Use two student half days on calendar as “Diversity Days”
- Offer array a range of workshops on different topics, many student and/or faculty led
- Students choose 2-3 workshops to attend
- Mandatory for ALL students
- Faculty required to attend events with students

**STUDENT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP WITH
DOROTHY STONEMAN, former CEO and
founder of YOUTHBUILD**

December 2017

What are the elements of BHS CULTURE that you would you like to change or affect, and how do you propose to go about it?

- ❖ **Spirit, pride, traditions (Pep Rally)**
- ❖ **Academic competition (Awards Ceremony)**
- ❖ **Participatory events for unification and discovery (Diversity Week)**