

**DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCLAMATION:
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION OF
ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH IN MAY**

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage in the United States was celebrated beginning in 1978 and was made into a month-long event in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month seeks to honor and recognize the contributions of residents from the continent of Asia and the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians, Chinese, and Japanese were the first to migrate to the Pacific Northwest and were known for handling canoes and transporting goods, construction, and railroad expansion; and

WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island)¹; and

WHEREAS, during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, we acknowledge Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have lived and worked in Oregon for more than 200 years, contributing to Oregon's and the United States' economy, culture, education, politics, arts, literature, science and technological developments² despite institutional and systemic injustices designed to prevent and limit these achievements and contributions³; and

WHEREAS, during AANHPI Heritage Month we acknowledge the additional determination, hard work, and perseverance, AANHPI must put forth to be heard and seen and that these additional efforts are a result of inequitable institutional and systemic injustices; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions and leadership, the role of AANHPI in U.S. history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history⁴; and

WHEREAS, we cannot deny the unique challenges and complicated, sometimes violent histories of peoples, nations, and empires across Asia and the Pacific- but we can commit to working together to strengthen our community for the future;

WHEREAS, racially motivated discrimination and harassment is at a high with a national and local spike in hate crimes against the AANHPI community, especially targeting its Muslim, South Asian, and Southeast Asian members; and

WHEREAS, Asians and Pacific Islanders are among the fastest growing communities in Oregon and Multnomah County⁵. This migration has been both voluntary and forced due to war and environmental degradation in their native countries; and

WHEREAS 86.2 percent of Asian students in the 2020-2021 four-year cohort graduated, 42.9 percent of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students graduated, and 82.2 percent of Asian Pacific Islander students graduated, a higher percentage than the all student cohort average percentage of 72.2 and

WHEREAS, 14.3 percent of enrolled students are Asian and 2.8 percent are Pacific Islander, and these populations increased 1.3 percentage points and 1.5 percentage points respectively over the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Islander Student Club organizes and promotes student success for Pacific Islander students; and

WHEREAS, 5.58 percent of the David Douglas School District workforce has self-identified as AAPI and the percentage has increased 29.41 percentage points over the past 5 years; and

WHEREAS, 2.98 percent of district leadership (supervisors, managers, principals) has self-identified as AANHPI; and

WHEREAS, 0 percent of union leadership has self-identified as AANHPI; and

WHEREAS, 48 percent (16/33) of the ASB student leadership has identified as AANHPI;

WHEREAS, the David Douglas School District is committed to and advocates for equal educational, professional, and social opportunities for AANHPI students, and;

WHEREAS, the Strategic Hiring Plan outlines specific strategies to increase staff of color, including a Grow Your Own Program with 26 staff of color enrolled.

WHEREAS, the David Douglas School District has an adopted Educational Equity⁶ policy and an Equal Educational Opportunity policy⁷ that states our commitment to closing the achievement gap for AANHPI students and creating an educational environment where all students can benefit equally from the educational programs offered; and

WHEREAS, the District is working towards eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality on all aspects of education and has a Racial Equity Committee⁸; and

WHEREAS, during AANHPI Heritage Month, we focus on the crucial role of education in the history of AANHPI Americans; and

WHEREAS, the District collaborates and partners with community-based organizations like IRCO Asian Family Center to form strong relationships in a culturally appropriate way and to

provide the space for feedback and guidance to district leaders on improving outcomes and opportunities for AANHPI students and families in the District; and

WHEREAS, AANHPI community members have been disproportionately impacted by incidences of hate and discrimination during the COVID 19 pandemic, and these experiences have disproportionately impacted our AANHPI youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephanie D. Stephens, Chair of the David Douglas School Board of Directors, do hereby proclaim May 1st through May 31st, 2022 to be

**ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH** in the David Douglas School District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the David Douglas School Board of Directors strongly encourages our staff and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders to our country, our state, our cities, and our schools.

Signed:



Stephanie D. Stephens, Chair, David Douglas SD

⁶ <http://policy.osba.org/ddouglas/I/IGAB%20D1.PDF>

⁷ <http://policy.osba.org/ddouglas/J/JP%20D1.PDF>

⁸ <https://www.ddouglas.k12.or.us/school-board/school-board-racial-equity-committee/>