CAPITAL VILLAGE
Public Charter Schools

2020-2021 CAPITAL VILLAGE EXPEDITIONS

GETTING SMART TO DO GOOD

Capital Village PCS, located steps from the Rhode Island Metro Station, is a high-quality middle school option for 5th - 8th graders. We are a small learning community where learners take the lead, grow together and change the world. With no more than 45 students per grade level and two teachers in every classroom, we are a village focused on the interests, needs and ambitions of each individual learner. We teach Common Core standards through social justice projects, called expeditions - where students are empowered to design solutions for community issues.

5TH GRADE FALL EXPEDITON - ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

What are human rights, and how can they be threatened? How can we use writing and technology to increase engagement in human rights advocacy work? In this expedition, students develop their ability to read and understand complex text as they consider the guiding questions. Students begin by reading the novel, Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan, a complex coming-of-age story set in Mexico and rural California. Students continue to build their understanding of human rights through selected articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the DC Human Rights Act (DCHRA). Students assume the role of a social impact leader focused on a specific human rights issue that impacts their community. They will work with a small peer group to design an Impact Project that improves the awareness and active engagement of youth in advocacy work.

5TH GRADE SPRING EXPEDITION - CLIMATE CHANGE ON YOUR CORNER

How do natural disasters affect the people and places that experience them? Students start by doing research to write and record a public service announcement (PSA) explaining how to stay safe during a natural disaster. Students then read and analyze literary texts about the aftermath of natural disasters, including poems, songs, and the novel, Eight Days: A Story of Haiti by Edwidge Danticat. This is a story about a boy trapped under his house for eight days after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. During a local case study, students will read excerpts from It's Getting Hot in Here: The Past, Present and Future of Climate Change and research how climate change is projected to impact areas of DC, meeting with urban planning experts and visiting neighborhoods in DC that will be most affected. Students will end the case study by writing advocacy letters to City Council members, and then apply what they learned to design artistically-rendered plans for flood mitigation in and around the school building.

6TH GRADE FALL EXPEDITION - THE HERO'S JOURNEY

What is a hero? What are characteristics that all heroes share? How can we apply the lessons from Greek mythology to our understanding of modern-day heroes? In this expedition, students are involved in a study of Greek mythology, its purposes, and elements. Pairing classical myths to Rick Riordan's The Lightning Thief, a novel about a sixth-grade boy on a hero's journey. Students will apply their understanding of the archetypal hero's journey in order to identify and celebrate a modern-day hero in their community. Student will interview leaders in local community groups, such as the Movement 4 Black Lives and Voto Latino. Using their knowledge of Greek mythology, students will become journalists to identify, research and interview a hero who is working to make our community a more just place. The modern-day heroes will be invited to Capital Village to be the guests of honor at a dinner, where groups will share the journey of their chosen hero. The evening will conclude with a Q&A session with the panel of modern-day heros.

6TH GRADE SPRING EXPEDITION - SUSTAINING THE OCEANS

How can humans harness resources to ensure marine life and ocean sustainability for the future? In this expedition, students learn about ocean conservation, sustainability, and the impact of human activities on life in the oceans. Students read Mark Kurlansky's World without Fish, a nonfiction text about fish depletion in the world's oceans and Carl Hiaasen's Flush, a high-interest novel about a casino boat that is polluting the ocean and the effort of a family to stop it. Students will analyze how the oceanic environment and changing landscape of marine life has impacted consumers in Washington, D.C., specifically at local fish markets and restaurants such as the Wharf. They will assume the role of food blogger and work with local chefs to develop recipes using sustainable marine life. Their blog will showcase important information to help consumers make sustainable choices.

IS YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER READY TO BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE?

LET'S GET TO WORK!

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