



Medfield Public Schools Professional Development

***Preparing Our Children to Thrive in an
Increasingly Globalized World:
Impactful curriculum, instruction, and assessments in the
preK-12 classroom***

June 22, 2020

MEDFIELD COLLEGE

Medfield College

*A new approach to
professional
development*

What is Medfield College?

University-quality courses
created

BY Medfield Public School
educators

FOR Medfield Public School
educators

Benefits of Medfield College

Benefit to the district's teachers

- **COST-** Low/no cost increment credits
- **CONVENIENCE-** on site/on line
- **CONTENT-** Meaningful content aligned to Medfield's unique context

Benefit to the instructors

- **PROFESSIONAL GROWTH-** Provides opportunities for veteran teachers to grow professionally--- without leaving the district
- **EARNING OPPORTUNITY-** Stipends are provided for development/implementation of course

Benefits of Medfield College

Benefit to the district

- **ALIGNMENT-** Direct alignment of course content to district's goals and initiatives
- **SHARABLE DELIVERABLES-** Course projects are practical and intended to be shared with peers
- **ADAPTABLE-** Courses can be adjusted/adapted to meet teacher feedback and evolving district needs

CC-501: Preparing our children to thrive in an increasingly globalized world: Impactful curriculum, instruction, and assessment in the PK-12 classroom (3 cr)

Zach Barrows & Kerry Cowell, Instructors

- First Medfield College course offering
 - February- June 2020
 - Open to all Medfield educators
- Course content designed to meet one or more district goals:
 - Need to support greater knowledge of unconscious bias/cultural understanding in curriculum and instruction
 - Need for high quality social studies curriculum aligned to new frameworks
 - Need to support infusion of multicultural books in elementary libraries

We all care deeply about every student who walks into our classrooms, but that does not mean that we feel fully equipped to properly support our increasingly diverse student population. This course provided an opportunity for participants and instructors alike to explore several of the challenges facing our students at all levels and begin piloting new approaches to address these issues, rooted in research, humility, and love.

Reflections & lessons learned (Kerry & Zach)

- Pre-course- very aware that topics and goals were bigger than us... & this was prior to COVID-19!
 - Did not want this to be a 
- Students were ready to tackle tough conversations and push through discomfort by being vulnerable, open, and honest-- started day #1
- The readings anchored our course, but our collective stories helped shape and guide the modules (for example: being open about my mom's battle with mental illness).
- We built traction in the first 2 weeks that thankfully carried over into remote setting-- vulnerability continued & deepened
 - We even think the online modules allowed for more space for those not comfortable sharing in person!

The internal work matters... a lot.

You cannot disrupt if you do not understand how systems of oppression work.

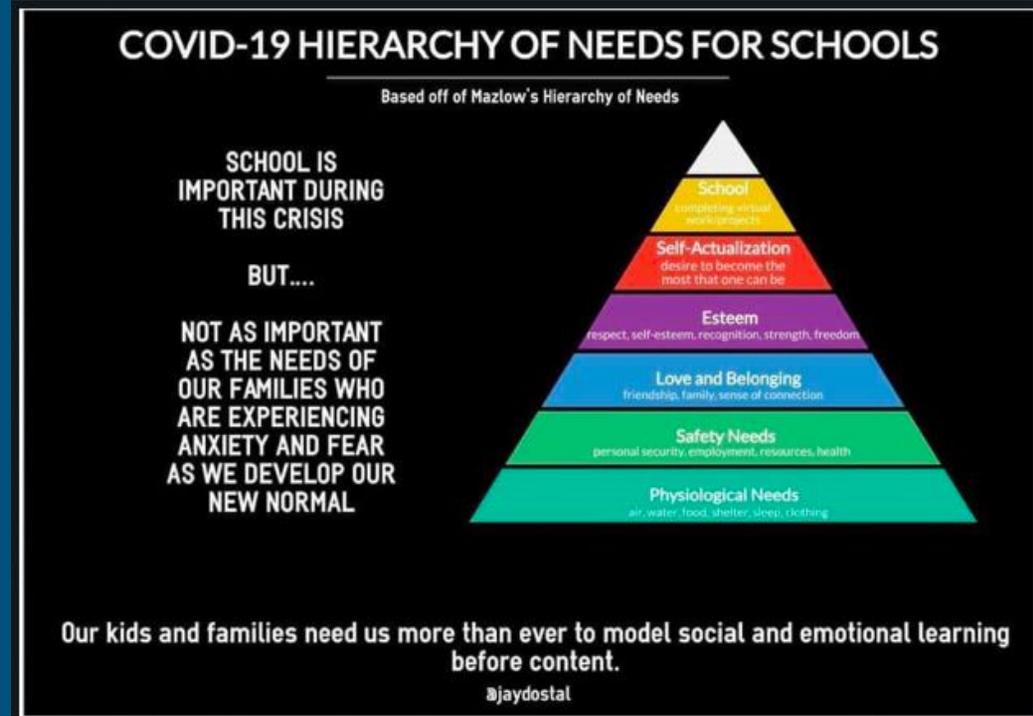
You cannot understand how systems of oppression work *until you come to terms with how they have worked on you.*

Copyright Tricia Ebarvia . @triciaebarvia #ILA19

Guiding mission: By embracing our own stories, we strive to educate ourselves about critical issues facing ALL students in our district. Through exploration, reflection, dialogue, and vulnerability, we aim to make sure every student, regardless of background, is seen (and feels seen) and is prepared to successfully interact with an incredibly diverse and increasingly connected world.

Reflections & lessons learned

- Topics explored: race & racism, LGBTQ+ community, power & privilege, socioeconomic status, gender equality, identities in faith, physical/ mental health
 - Pivot after pivot (ie: supposed to attend Colby Swettberg)
- Tied in current events-- fortunately and unfortunately-- the world became a case study for our course
 - Students pivoted with final project ideas to include relevant and timely topics such as: picture book focus and study on authors and stories of Asian & Pacific Islander heritage, unit on the lesser known civil rights movements, considering our own biases in business classes, 13th and 14th amendments focus unit, COVID & its effects on the humanity & the environment, & more!



Quotes from students...

- After participating in this course I feel that I want to bring a more personal perspective to this objective with the goal of not just achieving historical perspective but also empathetic perspective that leads to a call for action from students.
- From a final project... Essential Question: “How has the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated racism that Asian and Asian-American individuals experience in our world? How can teachers and caregivers effectively respond to these incidents?”
- This helped me as a human, woman, parent & teacher - it took blinders off and pained my heart numerous times. We must do our best to make this better through these kids and ours and us. Your support really made it a safe learning environment. Emmett Till, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, so much taking of life.
- I think each topic could be its own course and would welcome the opportunity to learn more. I think all educators in Medfield should engage in these conversations. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn from our peers and interact with colleagues at a variety of grade levels.
- I loved the platform of meeting/interfacing with other teachers of various levels and disciplines. It gave a lot of breadth to the subject and ability to see how this can be taught throughout the district. This topic is gold...my only feedback is more support in next steps and sharing/implementing this info/ these lessons with other educators.

Looking ahead...

- Proud that we got to be a part of *something* that is happening to effect change
- No surprise, but the need for PD in all areas of recognizing our own biases to disrupt systems of oppression is glaring

MY HOPE IS THAT OUR
NEW NORMAL, TODAY, EXPOSES
WHAT WAS WRONG WITH OUR
OLD NORMAL, YESTERDAY
AND SETS US UP FOR A
BETTER NORMAL, TOMORROW.

edutopia

DWAYNE REED, EDUCATOR