



## THE FRANCES XAVIER WARDE SCHOOL

Dear FXW Families,

We are pleased to share some exciting new developments in the realm of equity, justice, and anti-racism work happening this summer in the FXW community.

### **Curriculum Opportunities for Grade 7 and 8 Students**

Several FXW faculty and staff have taken it upon themselves to develop summer courses to help our rising Grade 7 and 8 students dialogue about racial injustice and develop active ways to combat it. The **More Than A Book Club** is facilitated virtually by six faculty members who have volunteered their time. Twice per week for an hour each session, student members of this book club discuss [\*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You\*](#) by [Jason Reynolds](#) and [Ibram X. Kendi](#). The book, adapted for young readers, “reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an anti-racist future.” In Zoom group meetings, faculty and students discuss the racial injustices outlined in the book, dialogue about how America has arrived at this present moment, and will determine ways that each of us can work towards building an inclusive, equitable society.

As highlighted in the CNN article “[Getting kids to connect across racial — and geographic — lines](#),” the **More Than a Book Club** is an example of how FXW is operating as an “incubator of social justice.”

Another gratis summer course that is being offered is **Fighting for Racial Equality and Equity through History Course (FREE)**, which, similar to the book club, has been met with tremendous student attendance and participation by dedicated volunteer faculty members.

The purpose of the **Fighting for Racial Equality and Equity through History Course (FREE)** is to invite students to read, analyze, and engage in conversation over both historical and anti-racist nonfiction texts and multimedia. The aim is to help students and faculty better contextualize the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and be more informed in our fight for permanent racial equality. In Zoom group meetings, they focus on the history of slavery and its legacy through the Reconstruction Era and the rise of Jim Crow. In addition, participants are exploring mass incarceration, societal inequity, and discrimination in housing and schooling, while highlighting Black voices, authors, and historical figures. This course will culminate in a student-led initiative to bring about permanent and lasting change.

### **Professional Development for All Faculty and Staff**

We are equally excited to share FXW's newly developed **Thinking, Leading, Collaborating (TLC)** self-paced professional learning modules. These modules were released recently for faculty and staff and were created during the month of June by faculty and staff who participated in the research, conversations, and the creation of the content in the modules.

All faculty and staff are currently navigating roughly 20 professional development learning modules asynchronously through Canvas. The goal is for faculty and staff to virtually take multiple mini-courses, some of which pertain to their area of focus professionally and others which are mandatory for the purpose of creating a similar level of understanding around certain topics such as the Health Module or the Equity and Justice Do More Module.

We want to emphasize that these summer courses and professional development modules are just the start. It is our hope these offerings serve as a springboard for FXW students and faculty who want to build a truly equal and equitable world.

In solidarity,

The FXW Administrative Team



**The Frances Xavier Warde School**  
751 N State St, Chicago, IL 60654  
120 S Desplaines St, Chicago, IL 60661

1-312-466-0700

[fxw.org](http://fxw.org)

Email: [community@fxw.org](mailto:community@fxw.org)