

East Aurora School District 131

African American Parent Association Meeting

Thursday December 2, 2021

Agenda:

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Kwanzaa Presentation
- IV. Guest Speaker- Mr. Asa Gordon
- V. Concluding Remarks
- VI. Updates and Events
- VII. Questions



Group Norms

Respect:

Be respectful of the opinions of others

Open communication:

We must create a safe meeting environment where everyone feels comfortable enough to share their opinions.

(Ex. Table / parking for future discussions)

Open mind:

We must keep an open mind, maintaining a safe and supportive environment that encourages growth and development.

Responsibility:

Be ready to start on time, be prepared and be responsible

(Ex. Keep the mic on mute when not speaking, maintain a healthy mood, celebrate, and laugh together.)



Strategic Plan:

MISSION

Our purpose is to educate and empower all students to reach their full potential.

VISION

Our future graduates will be confident and productive global citizens committed to improving their community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Meet the diverse needs of all students by ensuring a safe and inclusive learning environment.



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Utilize systems and resources that promote operational excellence, efficiency, and fiscal accountability.



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Engage in continuous improvements through collaborative, student-focused, and data-driven leadership.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Ensure the academic success of all students by closing the opportunity gap.



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

Introductions:

Break Out rooms (5 minutes):

- Share your name
- Child/children's school, and grade(s)
- What is one memory of the holidays from your childhood you would like to revisit?



KWANZAA CELEBRATIONS



DEFINING KWANZAA

- Kwanzaa is a secular festival observed by many African Americans.
- It is celebrated from the 26th December to 1st January.
- It is a celebration of African cultural heritage and traditional values.
- It was first created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966.



KWANZAA PRINCIPLES

1. **Umoja** - Unity
2. **Kujichagulia** - Self-Determination
3. **Ujima** - Collective Work and Responsibility
4. **Ujamaa** - Cooperative Economics
5. **Nia** - Purpose
6. **Kuumba** - Creativity
7. **Imani** - Faith



KWANZAA SYMBOLS

- **Mazao** (The Crops)
- **Mkeka** (The Mat)
- **Kinara** (The Candle Holder)
- **Muhindi** (The Corn)
- **Mishumaa Saba** (The Seven Candles)
- **Kikombe cha Umoja** (The Unity Cup)
- **Zawadi** (The Gifts)



KWANZAA GREETINGS

- The greetings during Kwanzaa are in Swahili.
- The greetings are to reinforce awareness of the Seven Principles.
- The most common greeting is "Habari gani?".
- The answer greeting is each of the principles for each of the days of Kwanzaa.
- For example: "Umoja" on the first day.



GIFTS, COLOURS AND DECORATIONS

- Gifts include books and heritage symbols.
- The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green.
- Decorations also include traditional African items, i.e., African baskets, cloth patterns, art objects, harvest symbols, etc.





EAST AURORA
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Mr. Asa Gordon

***Director of Middle and Secondary
College and Career Readiness***

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Background

- **Admission Recruiter**
 - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **Social Studies Teacher**
 - Palatine High School
- **Director of K12 Services**
 - The College Board
- **Director of Middle & Secondary College and Career Readiness**
 - East Aurora School District 131



WHAT IS THE #1 INDICATOR FOR STUDENT SUCCESS?



“DOES MY TEACHER LIKE ME?”

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2005 12th grade data.



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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT



*“If you are NOT present, than **YOU DON’T EXIST!**”*



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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT



“What gets measured, gets done!”



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“Let me put this in writing”



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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT



“Don’t do ANYTHING until you hear from me!”

Community Foundation Scholarships:

- Scholarship application opened Monday, November 22
- Students can complete applications at home but counselors are available during all lunch periods in the College and Career Center daily to assist students with the application

For more information please contact:

Nakita Stewart

EAHS School Counselor

Phone: 630-299-8158

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE NEXT YEAR?



**SCHOLARSHIPS
ARE AVAILABLE!**

One application, many opportunities!

Apply Online
November 22, 2021 - January 18, 2022

Visit **cffrv.org**
to start your application

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE FOX RIVER VALLEY

Contact Community Foundation of Fox River Valley
for more information at: 630-896-7800 or scholarship@cffrv.org.

Concluding Remarks:

Next meeting date:
Thursday January 13, 2021
6:30 pm- 7:30 pm
(Virtual)

For more information and future updates please click [HERE!](#)



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

Updates and Events:

- Download the EA Parent App to receive news and district updates.
- Resources on Social Emotional Learning

Upcoming events:

Looking to get involved in your child's school?

- Attend "Parent Workshops", offered each month at each school!
- All Workshops will be virtual this year!
- Flyers will be provided by your school's Parent Liaison.

For more information, please contact Iliana Núñez at inunez@d131.org or 630-299-7207.



Questions?

