Creating Culturally Relevant Activities

CADA TOURS 2022
By: Greg Dowden
Introducing Mr. Dowden

- Greg Dowden
- Husband, Father, Teacher, Mentor, Traveler, and Writer
- 5 years at Vista Murrieta High School
- 2 Years as Activities Director
- 3 Years as PLUS Advisor
- Currently teach Modern World History, PLUS, Mentorship Intervention, and ELD Coordinator
- Advise Polynesian Culture Club, Middle Eastern North African Club, Native American Student Alliance, and Together We Can - Changemakers
“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

—Mark Twain
CULTURE is KEY!
Cultural Iceberg

Culture is more than just language, food, music and dancing.

Culture shapes the way we think, including our core values and beliefs.
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Inclusion
Diversifying Student Leadership through inclusion is the key to Building More Student Leaders.
2017
Social Media Emergency
All Leadership groups were asked to send representatives:
ASB, Senate, Link Crew, PLUS, BBC.

Who is Missing?
BSU
Perception vs. Reality

Students on campus were referring to ASB as the “White Student Union”

Students who participated in BSU Leadership were not applying because they didn’t feel represented in Student Gov’t.

Often Student Leadership and Culture Clubs were both doing great things for students but existed in separate lanes.

School Demographics 2017-2018

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<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
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<td>Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>36.9%</td>
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Inclusion requires a Mindset Shift!

1. **Build**
   1. Attend Club Meetings & Events.
   2. Get to know students involved.
   3. Recognize students and Culture Clubs for their achievements.

2. **Invest**
   1. Partner with Culture Club Advisors like Class Advisors.
   2. Recognize that advisors and leaders need training and support.
   3. Offer financial support through sponsoring activities.

3. **Invite**
   1. Invite cultural club leaders to participate in leadership activities.
   2. Invite student leaders to participate in culture club activities.
   3. Invite students from culture clubs to apply for leadership.
What’s Can ASB do?

A. Require Student Leaders to attend a Culture Club Meeting and write about their experience.

B. Invite Club Leaders and Advisors to attend trainings like CADA / CASL or Leadership Development Days

C. Have student leaders create a Culture Box Assignment and present during class.
Commissioners of Cultural Awareness

- Appoint or Elect Students from the various Culture Clubs on Campus.

- Have monthly Culture Club President Meetings.

- Coordinate Culture Nights and Culture Month Campaigns.

- Consult various Commissioners on how to incorporate Culture Clubs into events.

- Collaborate with Culture Clubs in supporting their activities.

-Culture Minutes
The Culture Minute

Leadership students can create and share or reach out to friends and the student body to create Culture Minutes to be put on Social Media or Campus News.
Diversity and Inclusion

Vista Murrieta High School

The students in these clubs partake in both Culture Nights and Culture Talks. Culture Nights at Vista Murrieta are open to the community and include different clubs performing cultural dances or rituals as well as serving traditional food and drinks to those in attendance, allowing for them to learn about and appreciate cultures different than their own.
Creating Spaces
Developing Culture Clubs and connecting students to Cultural Learning.
Culture Clubs on Campus

- BSU: Black Student Union
- LSU: Latino Student Union
- Fil-Am: Filipino-American Club
- PCC: Polynesian Culture Club
- MENA: Middle Eastern North African Club
- NASA: Native American Student Alliance
- Ohana/Haka: Polynesian Dance Club

- The Possibilities are endless.
- Look at your student demographics to determine needs.
- Be willing to evolve and change with your student body.
If You Build It - They Will Come...

**The Don’ts**

You *don’t* have to belong to a particular culture to advise a Culture Club.

You *don’t* need to teach students about their own culture.

You *don’t* need to be an expert!

**The Do’s**

Provide a safe space for students.

Establish consistency - Set regular meeting dates, times, and patterns.

Help the club grow with targeted invitations.

Let the kids take the lead in meetings.

Connect students with Cultural Learning.

Be willing to show up!
Culture Club Formats

1. Consistency is Key. Establish a weekly, biweekly, or monthly meeting time. The more frequent the meetings the better opportunity to build community. They don’t have to be long even a quick check-in builds trust and helps establish a pattern.

2. Easy format for meetings can look something like this:
   a. Welcome - Highs & Lows of the week
   b. Song of the day
   c. Culture Minute
   d. Optional Activity

3. As an adult you can send targeted invitations. You can run demographic queries or ask counselors or administrators for support. Send out invitations to students who belong to the cultural group.
Students are happiest when they are able to be themselves, represent their culture, and share it with others.
Connect Students with Cultural Learning

Being a Culture Club Advisor gives you the unique opportunity to connect students with Cultural Learning.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE THE TEACHER!

Connect students to members of their own cultural community.

This allows students the opportunity to form bonds that can last beyond high school and benefit their respective cultural communities.
Invite Cultural Experts or Practitioners.

You can find speakers and experts on Instagram. Guests can run virtual workshops. Connect Students with THEIR cultural community!

VISTA MURRIETA HIGH SCHOOL'S NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ALLIANCE PRESENTS...

THE NATIVE WORKSHOPS SERIES

WE NEED YOUR HELP! NASA IS LOOKING FOR INDIGENOUS PRESENTERS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE, CULTURES, AND ISSUES.

WE ARE SEEKING VARIOUS PRESENTERS TO TEACH A 30-45 MINUTE WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM ON A THURSDAY AFTERNOON FROM 2:45-3:30.

OUR MISSION IS TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF NATIVE AMERICANS, AMPLIFY NATIVE VOICES, AND INCORPORATE INDIGENOUS NARRATIVES INTO OUR CURRENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

PLEASE HELP US BY SIGNING UP TO PRESENT!

SINCERELY,

DANIEL HOLMES (PRESIDENT)
TLINGIT - COAST SALISH - KWAKIUTL

To participate please contact our advisor to schedule a date/time and topic:
Greg Dowden (Advisor)
gdowden@murrieta.k12.ca.us
THE NATIVE WORKSHOPS

Facilitated by:
DANIEL HOLMES
TUCKY
COAST SALISH - SAWARAKUT

Roundtable Discussion

Via Zoom on Nov. 16 @ 5:00 PM PST

LOREN ANTHONY
DYNE NAVAJO
ACTIVIST & EMPOWERMENT CAMPAIGNER

CHENAYE BULLOCK
SHINNECOCK
MONITOR

TYLER MITTE
ISHKIA BLACKFOOT
ARTIST & ADVOCATE

JOSCEPA LEFTHAND
CHIEFBEER - ARAKHPA
TAKE & DARE

J Meko Thomas
AKA LANDA LAKES
CHICASAW

ALTREA WILSON
LEHON'TE SIOBE | HORNED
NATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

Native Regalia, Costumes, & Breaking Down Stereotypes
Connecting Students to Cultural Learning and Representation
Building Community
Providing Opportunities for Collaboration.
How do you encourage collaboration among Culture Clubs?

- Joint Club Activities
- Service Projects
- Culture Nights (Plural)
Joint Club Meetings

In October Fil-AM invited BSU to their club meeting and had an awesome turnout. The two groups were able to share their cultures with each other and increase community ties.

In April MENA plans to hold a Ramadan Break the Fast inviting the other culture clubs to a potluck.
PCC Feeding the Football Team

Since many of our Polynesian Club Members are also on the Varsity Football Team, we give service by having parents make traditional foods and our club serves them before the game.
Activities & Events

Making Cultural Learning Experiences a regular part of your School Calendar.
Mindset Shift: Began treating Culture Clubs like Leadership Organizations.

- **2017**: 
  - A little under 100 people each time

- **2019**: 
  - Campus Cultural events take place monthly.
  - School-wide Cultural events have ranged between 200-300 people.

- **2021**: 
  - Campus Cultural events take place monthly.
  - School-wide Cultural events have ranged between 200-300 people.
Do your Hallways reflect your Students?

Connect your Photography Classes or Club with your Cultural Clubs to create visual campaigns for Cultural Months or Celebrations.
Family Nights

Individual Culture Clubs invite their families. Each family is encouraged to bring a cultural dish to share and students are recognized and present what they have learned.
Mi Famila

- Tickets were $5 per person.
- Art Competition displayed and winners announced.
- Loteria played and prizes given.
- Food Served.
- Performances
- Quinceanera Fashion Show
VMHS LSU & PLUS present ¡YO SOY!

Art Competition

Write a poem, essay, paragraph, short film, photograph, drawing, or painting.

All entries should reflect YOUR connection to Hispanic Culture or how Hispanic Culture has influenced you.

ALL Entries should be submitted to jt102019@gmail.com or delivered to Room W113.

DEADLINE EXTENDED 9/30/2021

1st Place - $100 Gift Card
School News/Social Media Spotlights
Movie Nights

To kick off Black History Month, BSU showed Black Panther in the Quad and PLUS Supported by buying the snacks.
Inclusion in Campus Activities

**Hallway/Door Decorating**
- Despite being red, Mars is a cold place.
- It’s the closest planet to the Sun.

**Holiday Trees**
- It was named after a Roman god.

**Pumpkin Decorating**
- Despite being red, Mars is a cold place.

**Homecoming Competition**
- It has very high temperatures.
Culture Nights

Culture Nights always contain Food, Family, and Performances or Presentations.

One way to involve all students is to create sign-ups for students without a culture club to create a display or presentation. Supply the Presentation Boards and encourage student leaders to sign up.
Cars & Culture

On April 23, VMHS will be putting on its first ever Cars & Culture festival.

Various Car Clubs will be displaying their cars that are associated with the different Culture Clubs on Campus.

Culture Clubs will be providing food trucks and performances.

We are excited busy working together to create this new event.
Forums & Flyers

PLUS presents...

Amplifying BLACK VOICES

Hosted by: Justin Brown, Amelie Jennings

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL FORUM

Thursday, Feb. 25 @ 12:30PM

VMHS LSU & PLUS present

¡MI FAMILIA!

Hispanic Heritage Family Night
Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021

FOOD - GAMES - MUSIC

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

VMHS QUAD

COMMUNITY WELCOME!

Pre-Sale Tix $5 At the Door $8

Musical Performances Quincenera Fashion Show Art Displays and More!
THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!!!
Thanks!

Any Questions?

Mr.Dowden15@gmail.com
Greg Dowden
Vista Murrieta High School

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