

September 8th

Team,

I hope each of you had a fantastic first day of school! I was able to visit the four La Pine schools this morning, as well as Caldera High School, and plan to spend time in other middle and high schools over the next few days. What I saw was tons of energy, mask compliance ☺, and excitement to be starting the year in person together.

One issue that is being raised in a number of schools, particularly middle and high schools, is very specific questions by families regarding instructional content and materials. For example, one parent asked the following:

I would like to be able to review any content (Books, articles, videos, PowerPoint slides, images etc...) that reference or pertain to:

1. *BLM*
2. *LGBTQ+*
3. *Social Justice*
4. *Systemic Racism*
5. *Racial and Cultural Identity*
6. *Historic and modern racism*
7. *Historic contributions to society (art, political movement, racism, etc) by people of color, women, marginalized populations AND white/ anglo saxons.*
8. *Gender Identification.*
9. *Equity*
10. *Police violence*

If you're like me, this seems to be a very broad request. I have a few suggestions that I hope will help support you and your teachers:

- It's best practice (and required at our middle and high schools by second semester) that teachers post their syllabuses on Canvas. These should include **major** standards that will be addressed, **major** texts that will be studied, and **major** assessment activities.

I fully recognize that teachers frequently supplement these texts. Here's suggested language for the bottom of the syllabus: *In response to students' learning needs, current events, or newly available sources, for example, I will periodically supplement our major texts with other materials. If you do not want your student to read/view any supplemental materials, please let me know. Your student can wait to read/view the material until after they have shared it with you.*

- Families who have questions about the topics listed above are welcome to review all materials and make their own determinations about whether the topics of study include issues of concern for them. Here's the link to Canvas support for families:

[Canvas support for families](#)

- We are requiring all secondary staff to include classroom assignments and supporting materials (when applicable) on their Canvas homepages, so these are available for families to review. It's also best practice to have these prepared ahead of time.
- Some families are requesting to meet with teachers and principals regarding curriculum choices. We have tried to accommodate these requests whenever possible. However, I encourage you to meet with individual families so that you can focus on their specific concerns pertaining to their specific student. (We have experienced situations recently where one family schedules a meeting, and then brings four other families along.) I also encourage administrators to join these meetings with teachers.