

Letter to Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is my pleasure to welcome you as your child embarks on a Facing History & Ourselves unit of study. Facing History is an international educational and professional development organization with over 40 years of experience. For more information, please visit our website, facinghistory.org.

Facing History is committed to helping students make the essential connections between history and the moral choices they face as adolescents. We know that students are grappling with key questions such as: Who am I? How do I fit into my community as well as the larger world? How can I make a difference? All of these questions will be explored by looking deeply at a historical moment when individuals made decisions about their own lives and the lives of their neighbors.

This approach prepares students for a study of the choices made by groups and individuals during one of the most turbulent periods in American history: Reconstruction. Research has shown that studying history this way helps students understand how their decisions influence others and strengthens their ability to take multiple perspectives and consider the ethical implications of their choices.

You can be assured that in the creation of this material, great care has been taken to consider the age appropriateness of the content and the pedagogical tools teachers will need to ensure that adequate time is given for discussion and reflection. Facing History provides ongoing support for educators who are implementing the curriculum. We hope that your child's participation in this unit invites many meaningful conversations between you and your child.

Sincerely,

Abby R. Weiss

Smith Family Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer

Facing History & Ourselves