TIME CAPSULE @ CIVIC CENTER

When students come back to Civic Center Secondary after the sheltering in place is lifted, we will be introducing “Time Capsule @ Civic Center”. Time Capsule will build on skills developed during several student programs: ethnic studies, oral interviews & podcasting.

Our students face many challenges every day.  They come to school because of the safe relationships they have with our staff.  We provide a safe, welcoming school (in person or online) where we greet each student with “I am not successful until you are successful.” We support student growth with “critical thinking skills, empathy and tolerance, civic responsibility, and the belief they can make a difference in the world.”  We believe that every student at Civic Center is valuable & CAN make a difference in the world.

Civic Center Secondary serves students in grades 7 through 12 and is located one block from the hall. Students live in many areas of the city, many in foster care or group homes. 100% are free lunch. For these at-risk students with habitual truancy, behavior issues, and histories of suspension and expulsion, the goal is to change behavior so that these students will stay in school and earn enough credits to graduate.

Teachers have attended workshops & training with Voice of Witness & we began oral interviews in March 2020. Students practiced questions in class then began interviews with family or community about favorite recipes. When we get back to school, students will create a page with oral history quotes & a recipe for a school wide cookbook. Classes can choose one recipe to cook & share for our monthly all school lunch.

Several teachers have worked on podcasting, using resources from 826 Valencia. Middle school students are working on podcasting in online classes right now!!

Over the summer a team of teachers & our assistant principal will attend two Facing History seminars: Race and Membership in American History & Safeguarding Democracy: Facing History's Approach to Civics.

In each class students will have a personal Time Capsule Journal. There will be class time to research & record authentic information about Covid-19. Classes will generate topics, key words & suggested questions. Students can also use oral interview skills with family, group home & community members.

Excerpts from journals can be shared in class & quotes can be added to a school Time Capsule display in the main hall.

Each class will have a camera, a podcast mini studio and headphones so individual & small groups of students can include photos & podcast recordings as unique documents in their Time Capsules.

In addition, we will have frequent healthy snacks, as our teen are often hungry! Some of the snacks may include healthy cooking by students based on the recipes from families or community members.

Teens may also choose to contribute to Project 2020/TOGETHER” by The Museum of Childhood where all students of all ages can “express their hopes and fears, thoughts and observations, whilst providing a sense of community and togetherness.”

All teachers are developing lesson on current events that impact our students, especially Covid-19, the 2020 election & the census for the fall semester. We have participated in California School Mock Vote & each year have speakers from Constitution in the Classroom.

Resources from Voice of Witness, 826 Valencia, Facing History seminars, primary sources & online materials will help students research & build individual time capsules of this unique time in their lives.