

Good evening MCPS Board Members and / Superintendent Taylor, nice to see you again. My name is Sewon Kim and I am an 8th grader in Tilden Middle School. I am here today to advocate with my fellow peers to place AAPI, also known as Asian American Pacific Islanders, history in our school district's curriculum.

I am incredibly grateful and lucky to be in a community of diverse cultures. However, many have come to realize that AAPI is not represented in our curriculum. It is a quandary that our history is absent in the county. Why isn't AAPI history more integrated into the curriculum? Is there an important reason that AAPI history isn't taught MCPS? If not, **this should change**.

According to the website, World Atlas, the MCPS School District is the 15th largest school district in the United States. I was shocked to hear that MCPS, one of the biggest counties in the US, didn't involve AAPI history in their curriculum. I was even more shocked when I figured out our race was one of the more prodigious populations in our county. My ancestors should be taught as much as the people we learn about in our World Studies history class.

Our history deserves to be acknowledged and learned from your students. Do you realize the impact and influence Asian countries have had on inventions/innovations that we use today? Naming some, some, the Chinese invented the compass. The ATM machine originates from Vietnam. India is the mastermind of shampoo.

I do not follow antisemitism and I apologize in advance to whoever I offend. And what I am about to say is not to emulate any group or person. But think about this. Jews were not the only ones that suffered in the time period. Did you know Koreans have also experienced hardships in a similar time period as well? Then, how come no one knew about our struggles? People, and even I, did not know this. It is unprecedented about what our ancestors had been through. And again, **this should change**.

I was born and raised for 6 years in South Korea. However, I know more about the Constitution than my homeland's history. And that is not the problem. The problem is that I won't be able to learn more about my home country in school until college.

Since our generation is becoming more inclusive and tight, our students should have a choice to learn about our backgrounds as we learn about theirs.

If you want to make an incentive change in our education, our first step is to put AAPI History in our school curriculum. I hope my testimony is didactic. Thank you.