

Good morning 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 history, also known as Asian American Pacific Islanders history, in our school district's curriculum.

MCPS is the 15th largest school district in the US. We are a diverse community with many cultures and backgrounds. And, we have come to realize we are lucky and grateful to be a part of this community. However, many have noticed that AAPI is not represented in our curriculum. 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, the Chinese invented the compass. The ATM machine originates from Vietnam and India is the mastermind of shampoo. It is a quandary that our history is absent in the county. **This should change.**

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. Jewish people 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? During World War II, Korea was not an autonomous country. Koreans were oppressed by outside forces. However, how come no one knew about our struggles? People, and even I, did not know this until now. We are not educated. And again, **this should change.**

Since our generation is becoming more inclusive and worldly in backgrounds and cultures, 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. Thank you.