



Chattahoochee High School Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month!

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 - October 15 to commemorate the Hispanic/LatinX* communities that have contributed to the United States with their culture, food, traditions, ideas, and people. In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson created "Hispanic Heritage Week," which was later expanded to Hispanic Heritage Month under President Ronald Reagan in 1988. Since then, the month has been celebrated every year and is gaining increasing awareness in the US. At Chattahoochee, we recognize the richness of the cultural diversity among our student body and the resulting beautiful exchange of ideas, traditions, and culture in our building. Hispanic/LatinX students make up 11% of our student body. Throughout this month, Chattahoochee will engage in the following activities to honor Hispanic Heritage Month:

- Decorated bulletin board with Hispanic/LatinX people and art
- Create a schoolwide call for teachers to include in their lessons Hispanic/LatinX leaders who have made contributions to the subject they are teaching
- Highlight the stories and experiences of Hispanic/LatinX students at Chattahoochee
- Play a schoolwide Kahoot with facts about Hispanic/LatinX heritage
- Play Hispanic/LatinX music during class change time on Fridays

We also played [this video](#) for our students to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month at Chattahoochee. We hope you learn as much as we did!

*"LatinX" has emerged as an inclusive term to refer to people of Latin American descent. For more information, check out this article: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/word-history-latinx>

Here are some highlights and experiences we have collected from students and staff so far:

"I am proud to be Latino because we help out in ways and do things that can't be imagined. We have brought our culture and our ways to the US to help them understand a little better. I am proud to be Latino because we take a stand. Even though, we may not always be treated fairly or the same way as others, we still try our best to bring our culture, our ethnicity, into the US and have people understand us and that."

"I'd say my favorite dish that reminds me of my heritage is asopao de camarones. It's made with rice, shrimp, butternut squash, and other vegetables to give it its flavor and seasoning it's known for. This dish in particular reminds me of my ethnicity because it's one of the few traditional dishes my family and I still make from Dominican Republic. It reminds me of the all the times we'd eat this dish at my abuelo's house on rainy days, because all good asopaos are eaten on rainy days and with tostones!"

"I feel like a fundamental value for all Latinos is this idea of community and how everyone is family. After Hurricane Maria, I spent time volunteering in a town that was devastated by the hurricane and saw first hand how the entire island really came together to put back the pieces, not just for themselves and their own families but for their neighbors and community members. That kind of selflessness and resourcefulness used to help others is something to be proud of."