

JUNE 19, 2021

## BHPRSD CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH



### Where can I go to learn more about Juneteenth?

There are many on-line resources, podcasts, and stories that can enrich your knowledge of Juneteenth. Please check out these links to learn more:

Listen to a reading of the [Emancipation Proclamation on National Public Radio](#).

Celebrate with a [Juneteenth Song Playlist from National Public Radio](#).

[The History of Juneteenth](#) on NPR

[Slavery Did Not End of Juneteenth](#) by NPR News

[What the Emancipation Proclamation Didn't Do](#) by NPR News

[Celebrating Juneteenth](#) by Learning For Justice

[Teaching Juneteenth](#) by Learning for Justice

[The History and Meaning of Juneteenth](#) on The Daily. A Podcast.

[A Juneteenth Story](#)

PBS's [The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross](#)

### It is important to know why Juneteenth matters.

By Dr. Brian Repici, Superintendent

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, having presided over the secession of states from the Union and two years into a Civil War raging through our national landscape, released the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared those in bondage free in those States in rebellion against the United States of America. African Americans were not freed in those states as a result of this declaration as the states that seceded were fighting to keep those in bondage. As the Civil War raged across the Country, and territories once in secession were now in the hands of Union Army control, the Emancipation Proclamation could be enforced.

Even though the Army of Northern Virginia, which was comprised of about 28,000 Confederate Officers and men, surrendered on April 9, 1865, some states in rebellion continued to fight for many more months. As a result, the Union Army had to enforce the laws of the United States, including the Emancipation Proclamation, once its Army controlled those territories deep into the southern states. After the Union Army gained control of Texas, following fighting that concluded on June 15, General Granger, read to the people of Galveston, Texas, General Order Number 3 on June 19, 1865, which began most significantly with:

*"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with the Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."*

This did not end slavery in practice as many African Americans and their descendants were kept in *de jure* or *de facto* bondage, held against their will, until the next harvest, or over several planting seasons, until the law could be enforced. Thereafter, June 19, has been celebrated as the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It is a day to celebrate as it recognizes the spirit of humanity and how hope rises. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday. Please join the Black Horse Pike Regional School District family in celebrating Juneteenth!

### General Order #3



