An Inquiry-Based Kindness Curriculum

Created by: kindness.org

THE WHY
Helping students build the internal muscles needed to empower a life of kindness has always been important. Even essential. But it’s perhaps never been more urgent than it is right now. Last summer we asked hundreds of teachers to tell us what was most needed when it came to cultivating kinder classrooms and social-emotional learning in their students. Over and over again they pointed to the need for resources that considered the diverse learning needs, home environments, and lived experience of each student. As this upcoming school year is marked uniquely by uncertainty, access to a curriculum that is flexible, adaptive, and supports student well-being is critical.

THE WHAT
In response to these needs and underpinned by research, we developed Learn Kind, a trailblazing kindness curriculum powered by scientific inquiry, social-emotional learning (SEL), and soft skills. Centered around core skills like self-awareness, empathy, and caring communication, students experience the different ways that kindness shows up - and the impact it has when it does. Learn Kind will be available to K-8 classrooms in the U.S. for the first time this September, through the fall pilot. Schools that participate in the pilot will receive access to the Learn Kind curriculum, back-to-school materials to support students as they navigate the global pandemic, and ongoing support through the virtual Learn Kind Pilot community. Learn Kind curriculum is available to educators and schools for free.

THE HOW
The curriculum uses a five phase inquiry-based learning progression to empower students as scientists deployed to answer a real research question (ex. "What types of kind acts create the most happiness?"). With activated curiosity, students use inquiry and investigation to research, test, and discover their own answers to the big question. As they investigate, students uncover and develop the core SEL skills that power kindness, and use all of their discoveries to design new ways to build kinder classrooms, homes, and communities.

Interested in bringing Learn Kind to your classroom or school this fall? Sign up to get Learn Kind
1. When will Learn Kind be available?
The Learn Kind pilot will officially run from Sept. 8, 2020-Dec. 18, 2020. The curriculum will be available to teachers in August 2020, and remain available to all who wish to implement after the pilot officially ends.

2. Who is Learn Kind for?
Learn Kind is designed for K-8 students in three grade-bands: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. While some subject areas or classroom formats may appear more naturally aligned, Learn Kind can be implemented in any classroom environment, including after school programs. At this time, the curriculum is available to educators located in the U.S. who are currently teaching grades K-8.

3. How long does Learn Kind take to teach?
Learn Kind is designed to be completed in 8-10 instructional hours and could be taught over a few weeks or over several months. The curriculum is designed specifically for flexibility, allowing each teacher to determine the frequency of lessons and adapt other instructional elements as needed.

4. Is the curriculum aligned to a specific body of standards?
The curriculum is designed in connection to the CASEL Core SEL Competencies, and K-8 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

5. What if we’re not back in classrooms this fall?
We know that this fall is uncertain, and learning may take place in physical classrooms, virtually in homes, or a hybrid of the two. Learn Kind includes options and instructional support for each of these learning environments.

6. Why are you doing a pilot?
Learn Kind was developed in response to hundreds of educators and leading research, but we can only learn how effective curriculum is when it’s in the hands of students. A pilot allows us to evaluate the efficacy of the curriculum and identify opportunities for enhancement. Teachers participating in the pilot will have the option to provide feedback and speak into future Learn Kind enhancements if they choose.

7. How is Learn Kind structured?
Learn Kind follows a five-phase Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) Framework. Curriculum materials are provided through both teacher and student resources that can be accessed and interacted with digitally, or printed for physical use.

8. How do I get started?
Your first step to bringing Learn Kind to students is to sign up with this form. Our team will connect with you to confirm your participation and get you started with curriculum and community access.

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Questions?
Email us at learnkind@kindness.org

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