



NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Recognizing Arab American Heritage Month In Our Schools

Every April, the culture, history and contributions of Arab Americans are highlighted as part of Arab American Heritage Month. However, it was not until 2019 that National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM) was recognized on a national scale when U.S. Representatives from Michigan Debbie Dingell and Rashida Tlaib issued a resolution in congress.

By some estimates there are currently 3.7 million people who identify as Arab in the United States. Across medicine, law, business, technology, government, and culture, Arab Americans are an invaluable part of the fabric of everyday American life.

Still, when some hear the term “Arab” many do not know who that identity may include.

For instance, according to Insight Into Diversity, people often make the mistake of using the terms “middle-eastern” and “Arab” interchangeably despite the region of our world that is commonly referred to as The Middle East also being home to non-Arabic countries. And what is more, not all Arab countries are located in the middle east. In fact, most Arab Americans have ancestral ties to areas across parts of northern Africa and into western Asia.

The world’s 22 Arab nations include Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Yet while the people of these nations share a common cultural and linguistic heritage, like any rich culture they are diverse in their ethnicity, religious values and political leanings.

Highlighting these basic facts can help non-Arab American people be more informed and conscientious toward our friends and neighbors who do claim Arab heritage.

Supporting Arab American Students

School counselors have not been adequately trained to meet the unique needs of these students in order to understand their needs within the context of culture, politics, and religion. Arab American experiences are jeopardizing their academic success and emotional well-being.

Use this resource to hear stories of and learn about the evolving needs of English Language Learners from Arab descent.

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-supporting-arab-muslim-students-in-the-classroom/2020/09>

The lack of understanding is at the root and thus leads to their disempowerment, limiting their access to an equal education experience.

More Support...

Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee

ADC is a civil rights organization committed to defending the rights of people of Arab descent and promoting their rich cultural heritage.

<https://www.adc.org/about-us/>

Under the ADCRI tab click the [Education](#) tab, you can find lesson plans, internships, scholarships, and outreach.

Arab-American in the Arts

<https://arabamericanmuseum.org/artists-residents/>

“The Arab American National Museum (AANM) is the first and only museum in the United States devoted to documenting and sharing Arab American contributions that shaped the economic, political, and cultural landscapes of American life. The Museum also brings to light the shared experiences of immigrants and ethnic groups, paying tribute to the diversity of our nation.” -taken from the About Page.

Experience Arab American arts from film and visual to culinary and writing. Tour the museum virtually and download lesson plans.