

The Courageous Conversations About Our Schools Newsletter | Issue No. 4



Saving Black History from the Culture Wars

Ken's Reflections

February is Black History Month, a time when America calls attention to the rich and varied contributions of African Americans throughout our history, along with their sacrifices.

But in these polarized times, students are learning *less* about Black history, largely because of new state policies limiting discussions about race or any topics that are deemed 'divisive.'

The good news is that there is a path forward that will allow educators to teach honest, non-biased Black history without fear of reprisals--even better, a path that allows teachers to focus on this content with the knowledge that administrators, parents, and the local community are *thankful* that students are learning a vitally important part of American history—not just the achievements but also the failures to live up to our ideals.

Read [the full blog post](#) to learn how...

[READ THE FULL BLOG POST](#)

Tune into our podcast episodes focused on race and racism in our schools

From the rising tide of racism in schools and the fiery debates over Critical Race Theory to battles over how history and current events are taught, these episodes illustrate how students, educators, and policy makers can engage in fruitful conversations about these issues.

How Students Learn about Race and Racism is Dividing Our Country (Ep. 2)



The perspectives of our guests vary widely (by design), but the purpose of the conversation is not to debate or argue but rather to understand, to have a respectful exchange of ideas.

[LISTEN TO EPISODE 2](#)

High School Students Weigh in on Race. Are their Elected Officials Listening? (Ep. 3)



High school students on the [*Kentucky Student Voice Team*](#) discuss findings and recommendations in a report they produced called, [*Race to Learn*](#). Many of these students are frustrated because new state

laws prevent some of their recommendations from being implemented.

LISTEN TO EPISODE 3

Forbidden Topics: Are Schools Hiding the Truth from Students? (Ep. 7)



Who should determine what's taught in public schools, and what role should parents play? Hear opposing perspectives and discover how respectful dialogue can lead to clearer understanding and even to common ground.

LISTEN TO EPISODE 7

Can Educators Prevent Racism in Schools? Diverse Perspectives, Lively Conversation (Ep. 17)



Racist acts on school campuses are rising. In this episode, we dive into two critical questions: What can educators do to prevent it? And what should they do when it happens?

LISTEN TO EPISODE 17

In the News Current Stories of Polarization Affecting Schools Nationwide

- *How do we teach Black history in polarized times? Here's what it looks like in 3 cities.* [Read in The The Hechinger Report>](#)
- *The Black History That Moves Us: A Resource List for Educators.* [Read in Education Week>](#)
- *Stopping culture wars in their tracks: How one city did it.* [Read in The Christian Monitor >](#)

Tools & Resources to De-Polarize




Living Room Conversations works to heal society by connecting people across the divides - politics, age, gender, race, and more - through guided conversations proven to build understanding and transform communities.


[**EXPLORE THEIR SCHOOL RESOURCES & GUIDES**](#)

Courageous Conversations in Action 

I'm honored to report that I recently joined the Board of the [Alder Graduate School of Education](#) in California and learned that a group of staff, faculty, and administrators discussed an [episode of ours](#) about school book bans for their Book/Podcast Club. I asked Alder's President what types of comments and questions came up in the discussion and she shared a few of them:

 ***"Loved the Courageous Conversations format since it gives you a deep sense of the varying perspectives."***

 ***"We appreciated how empathy can be built for multiple perspectives through a conversation like this."***

 ***"We notice that in the places where this is happening there is a real loss of trust in teachers and librarians."***

These were some of the questions that were raised during the discussion:

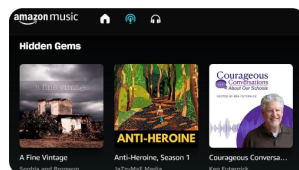
- *How might there be more time in a teacher's very busy work life to build greater trust with parents?*
- *Who, ultimately, should decide which books are available in the school library?*

Quote of the Month 

*If you have
contempt for
'them,' more and
more people will
become 'them.'*

Arthur C. Brooks, Love Your Enemies

Recent Accolades ★★★★★



We're honored! Goodpods has included us in their top 50 communication podcast list and top 100 political podcast list; we've

landed on Amazon Music's list of "Hidden Gems"; and PlayPodcast.net selected us as a ["Must-Listen Podcast for Educators in 2023."](#)

➡ **Let's Amplify the Conversation!**

Follow us on social media and forward this message to bring your colleagues into the fold.



Courageous Conversations About Our Schools, Carson Rd., Placerville, CA

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