

BY MARIE WEBSTER & **VEE WILLIAMSON** 

**African American History** 

**Courses Debut In CCSD** 

Chief Sports Photographer & Staff Writer

his year, for the first time, Creek is offering a semester-long CP African American Studies course. The College Board is currently developing an AP African American Studies class that will likely be available to all high schools by 2025.

The idea of a CP African American Studies program arrived at Creek when US and World History teacher Marc Ramsey did, in 2020. Ramsey is now the first and only CP African American Studies teacher at Creek.

"[During] my interview with Principal Silva, he asked me 'What can you do? What makes you unique? Why should I hire you?" Ramsey said. "And one

PHOTO BY WRYN DUEPRE

thing I mentioned was: 'I'm going to bring an African American class to this school because you don't have

Two years in the making, the CP course was finally approved in Febru-

Other history courses touch on the subject of African American history, but don't go into much detail, according to Ramsey. As a result, many students go into CP African American History with very little background knowledge.

"A lot of what we talk about can be very disturbing and shocking, and it catches them off guard sometimes, but that's a good thing," Ramsey said. "Not that I'm here to shock or surprise them, but they're learning and they're internalizing it."

The AP course would go into even more depth. Accompanied by the rigor of taking a weighted course, students will have the opportunity to

AMPLIFYING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY: Marc Ramsey teaches his CP African American History class. Ramsey himself pushed for the course to be a part of Creek's curriculum. "As soon as I learned [Creek] didn't have this class I was like: 'They should have one."

talking about religion, music - there's a lot of other things that are going into this." Social Studies Coordinator Michael Kraft said.

Some students around the country don't

tory, they're talking about culture, they're

range of top-

"With [AP] African American

Studies, you're able to take that

history course and dive a little

bit deeper into it, have more

connection with it"

Nathan Umetsu

AP African American Studies

Teacher at Overland

"It's really not a history class."

They're gonna be talking about his-

"I had a lot of [background knowledge] due

to me being African American and just the

knowledge that my pops and ma would give

me," Evans said. "I learned some things that I

In addition to teaching the course material,

Umetsu intends to integrate discussions in his

class that students can relate to on a personal

"With [AP] Afri-

can American Studies,

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history course and dive

a little bit deeper into it,

have more connection

with it," Umetsu said.

"You can connect it

with what we're study-

ing right now, you can

connect it with what

happened in recent his-

tory, you can connect it

with family events or a

family tradition."

Before the course becomes official, the Col-

lege Board has to undergo another round of

demos next year involving approximately 150

ting feedback back from the teachers and

classes they did this year, and then they will

write the test based on that feedback," Kraft

Once more information about the course

is disclosed, the administration can vote on

whether or not to offer the course at Creek in

the fall of 2024.

"They're doing this year's pilot demo, get-

hadn't learned before."

have to wait for the course to be officially implemented to take the class. According to the Washington Post, 60 high schools nationwide, including Overland, are providing a demo version this year where students enrolled can take the course.

Nathan Umetsu. who teaches the AP course at Overland,

says the class shines light on African American identity rather than solely focusing on

"My very first week with them, we read an article by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and the article was titled '42 Million Ways to be Black.' [Gates] made a very thoughtful argument about not defining African American or black society by just one word," Umetsu said. "There's 42 million African Americans living in America right now so there are 42 million different ways to be black."

Quincy Evans, an Overland student en-

**New AP Course Unit Overview** 

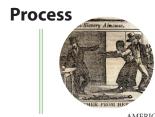
Overland teacher Nathan Umetsu is teaching the pilot version of the AP African American Studies course this school year. These are the topics Umetsu is covering.

> Unit 1: **African Empires**



**Transatlantic Slave Trade** 

Unit 3: The Enslavement **Process** 



Unit 4: **Emigration** 

**The Civil War** 



Unit 6: **Civil Rights Era** 

**Immigration &** 

Unit 5:

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