

2nd UPDATED DRAFT

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FOOD JUSTICE INITIATIVE

INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is an agreement made between the Falmouth Public Schools (FPS) and the Food Justice Initiative (FJI) relating to a course being offered for the first time at Falmouth High School (FHS) in the 2022-2023 school year entitled, “Race, Climate, and Food.” This is currently a 2 credit semester-based non-pathways course offered within the Career Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) Department at FHS, and enrollment is open to any interested FHS student in grades 9 through 12. The goal is for the course to serve as the beginning of a new CVTE pathway at FHS. The course description appearing in the FHS 2022-2023 Program of Studies is as follows:

Race Climate and Food 101

This is an introductory class in practical agriculture and the racial and climatic contexts that shape our current food systems. Students learn about current and historic racial injustices in land ownership and food access. They also discover the important climate prerequisites for a range of crops and how climate change will impact our ability to grow food fairly. The cultural and environmental histories of Cape Cod form a central part of both the race and climate narratives. Students work on a small-scale farm to grow local, culturally appropriate food and practice good land stewardship. Through engagement with local stakeholders, students participate in farm planning and food distribution discussions.

The MOU is not intended to be a legally binding document, but rather, it is a non-binding resolution that signifies a mutual vision and commitment to the education of FHS students in the study of racial and climate injustices relating to access to food and food supply.

TERM & EFFECTIVE DATE

The MOU is effective as of the date signed by the parties, and shall remain in full force and effect through June 30, 2023 unless terminated before then by either party by providing 30 days’ written notice to the other party. On or prior to its expiration on June 30, 2023, the MOU is subject to review and renewal upon the agreement of the parties.

PURPOSE

FJI was founded in 2021 as a platform to support the new Race, Climate and Food course at FHS. FJI seeks to empower people to understand the injustices in the history and current state of our food system and to take action to create a local, culturally relevant food future.

Together, FPS and FJI seek to create a progressive and innovative food justice learning experience that will develop FHS students’ understanding of the intersection between race, climate, and food. The course will include both traditional in-class learning and hands-on work on a school farm and will aim to empower students

to be competitive in college and career as well as to be active in the global community as racially, socially, and environmentally conscious citizens who understand the actions and reactions of the world around them through the study of race, climate, and food, leading to a comprehensive understanding of the historic injustices in this area of study and what actions can be taken to ensure a fair food future in a changing climate.

With this MOU, FPS and FJI seek to establish a mutually acceptable and equitable division of responsibilities relating to the Race, Climate and Food course.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

FPS and FJI hereby agree as follows:

- FPS has funded and hired a part-time .4 teacher dedicated to the Race, Climate and Food course at FHS.
- FPS and FJI collaborated on the Race, Climate and Food course description, and FPS has published the course description in the FHS 2022-2023 Program of Studies.
- The teacher of the Race, Climate and Food course is considered an employee of FPS, and as such, is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, as well as all FPS policies, that pertain to FPS employees.
- FPS will help identify and provide access to suitable outdoor space for the development of the school farm.
- FPS will provide access to water, irrigation, and electric resources as needed.
- FPS will provide appropriate classroom space and general classroom resources such as AV equipment and student learning equipment and materials.
- FPS will facilitate collaboration among the Office of Teaching & Learning and designated FJI representatives in determining the year-by-year scope of the program and projected workload of the program teacher.
- FPS will fund texts and/or instructional resources for the Race, Climate and Food course.
- FPS will provide the teacher of the Race, Climate and Food course with access to other resources available in the school and district subject to availability, including storage space, rack and light space, and access to the FHS STEM wet and dry labs to the extent they are available and accessible.
- FPS will work with FJI to establish appropriate times and spaces for the Race, Climate and Food course to be advertised to students and staff during the 2022-2023 school year.
- FPS will provide FJI staff appropriate access to FHS facilities in the 2022-2023 school year for purposes of advertising upcoming Race, Climate and Food programs and events to staff, students, and families.
- FJI will provide staff and volunteers to help establish and run the Race, Climate and Food course, including curriculum development, external partnership development, lesson delivery, and farm management.
- FPS will provide access to designated FJI staff and volunteers to the school farm site and appropriate classroom spaces to work with or without students.
- Prior to working with any FPS students, all FJI staff and volunteers are required to be CORI'd and approved by Falmouth Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS).
- FPS will support the course within the CVTE Department at FHS:
 - This course creates an independent pathway in the CVTE program. While not eligible for Perkins funding, this course has been created using the model of other CVTE programs.

- Unique to this pathway is the interdisciplinary design at the intersection of CVTE frameworks (e.g., horticulture, agriculture, and culinary) and academic frameworks (e.g., science and social studies).
- FJI will develop a budget for the Race, Climate and Food course, and work in collaboration with FPS to ensure alignment between FJI's process and FPS's internal school budget mechanism.
- FJI will develop the infrastructure plan for the school farm and will collaborate with FPS to refine as needed.
- FJI will seek funding for major infrastructure and other start-up costs.
- FJI will build and maintain any new infrastructure on the FHS campus including a hoop house, which will be used for winter production.
- All materials, equipment, and facilities purchased for use in the Race, Food, and Climate course and supported in partnership with FJI, including the hoop house, will be the property of FPS.
- Should circumstances arise in which the materials, equipment, and facilities are no longer used by FPS, FPS will offer FJI the first opportunity to assist with determining alternative use of the materials, equipment, and facilities.
- FPS and FJI will collaborate on the development of the curriculum for the Race, Climate and Food course, and any copyright, property, ownership or other rights associated with all curriculum materials that are developed will be shared by FPS and FJI, and each party, individually or jointly, has the right to reproduce, display, adapt, and share the curriculum with others, including but not limited to other school districts to support their development of a similar course or program, and when doing so, both FPS and FJI will be given attribution and credit on the curriculum materials as the creators of same.
- FPS and FJI will consider and discuss entering into a Creative Commons license agreement, or other similar agreement, regarding the curriculum materials developed hereunder as said materials are more fully and formally developed over the course of the 2022-2023 school year.
- FPS and FJI will collaborate with respect to identifying and funding appropriate training and professional development for FPS and FJI staff and volunteers associated with the Race, Climate and Food course.
- FPS and FJI will collaborate with each other in the development and submission of grant proposals in support of the Race, Climate and Food course.
- FPS and FJI will maintain regular and consistent communication with each other to support the goals of the Race, Climate and Food course.
- FJI will establish a stakeholder group known as an Advisory Board in alignment with certified vocational pathways that will help monitor the development, implementation, and future direction of the Race, Climate and Food course. This Advisory Board will be composed of a diverse cross section of the Falmouth population and will include school staff members, students, parents/guardians, farmers, cultural leaders.
- FJI and its Advisory Board will collaborate with external partners, including but not limited to contacts from local farms, the Wampanoag Tribe, the Cape Verdean Museum, Farming Falmouth, and the Town of Falmouth, so as to ensure the Race, Climate and Food course integrates successfully into the local community.
- FPS will grant FJI staff access to the school farm site on the FHS campus outside of regular school hours and during school vacation periods to maintain the farm and to operate additional educational activities such as after school clubs and summer programming. The hosting of such programs will require advance approval from FPS.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN

Each signatory to this MOU represents and warrants that they possess all necessary capacity and authority to sign on behalf of their respective party.

FOR THE FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Lori S. Duerr, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Date

FOR THE FOOD JUSTICE INITIATIVE:

Matt Liles

Date