Key Elements of Berkshire School’s 2016 All-School Read
Between the World and Me
by Ta-Nehisi Coates
During our School Meeting on May 18, 2016, Lucia Mulder, ASR Chair and Bill Bullock, History faculty, introduce our 2016 All-School Read, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates and the online reading guide. Bill reprised a seminar he taught during WeWeek on the topic of race, bias, and the historical context of the book.
MTV Documentary on Race

During our For Life programming block, students met with their form leaders and watched the documentary, *White People*, and discussed the questions raised on affirmative action, colorblindness, white privilege and other difficult and complex topics.
Keynote Speaker

The W. Kamau Bell Curve: Ending Racism in About an Hour

As a part of Berkshire's All-School Read program, the community welcomed Emmy-nominated political comedian W. Kamau Bell to campus on Monday, September 12, 2016. While incredibly funny, Bell's one-man show set the tone for a thought-provoking discussion on race at Berkshire and beyond.
Norms and Guidelines

- Speak for yourself. Use “I” messages.
- Be aware of sharing the airspace when taking your turn around the circle and in conversation.
- Tend first to your own balance of talking and listening.
- In going around the circle, practice the discipline of the circle, listening and waiting, knowing you can engage in conversation (cross-talking) later.
- Know that there is always the right to pass, i.e., to continue listening.
- Be respectful of yourself and others when choosing to disclose.
- Be attentive to the roles of silence.
- Handle with care the confidences that are shared in a specific context or circle or conversation.
- Remember that we are all at different places in our journey in this work.
- No shame, no blame, no guilt.
Pair-Share

Please find a partner, preferably someone with whom you do not spend time with on a regular basis. As a guide for today’s conversation, we’d like everyone to consider the framework of windows and mirrors; a window is a view into the lives and stories of people who are different and a mirror is a view that reflects our own lives and stories. In reflecting on Between the World and Me and the W. Kamau Bell presentation, please consider the following questions:

- What did you see?
- What did you hear?
- What did you feel?
- What did you learn?
Please come back to the circle. We invite you to share some of what you heard and what you felt during your pair-share. We will go around the circle and each of you will have one minute to speak. Thanks for your contributions. We now have 5 minutes for cross-talk. Thank you all for participating.

Note: These discussions were structured according the National SEED Project guidelines
Lunch with W. Kamau Bell

In years past, as a part of Berkshire’s All-School Read program, we held an ASR expressive arts competition. We didn’t this year, however, Losseni wrote a moving letter and poem in response to Coates’ book. He was thrilled to learn he would be dining with W. Kamau Bell for lunch before Kamau left campus.
On Thursday, October 27, 2016, the Berkshire community had the opportunity to take part in "Defamation The Play" as the second All-School Read event. "Defamation" is a riveting courtroom drama that explores the highly charged issues of race, religion, gender, class and the law with a twist of the audience being the jury.
As a part of Berkshire's All-School Read program, and in conjunction with our For Life Programming, Debbie Irving spoke about coming to terms with her upper middle class upbringing, assumptions about being a “good person”, and biases and stereotypes that impact our discussions on race. Students then broke into small group discussions with their advisors.
WeWeek

Holi Celebration

Berkshire School students explore these topics and a series of others during the School’s WeWeek, a student-led initiative launched in 2014 to empower students to share and embrace the differences among themselves.
WeWeek

Noah Faison ’16, Founder of We Week
April 9-16
WeWeek Workshops

- Black Lives Matter
- Affirmative Action
- Fake News in Sweden
- Religious Pluralism in America
- Vietnam
- Religious Pluralism in America
- Bible Study
- Chinese Ethnicity Groups
- Shades
- National SEED Project
- A Class Divided: Jane Elliott
- Identity Circles
- Sexuality
- Gender Roles
- Cultural Stereotypes
- Conservatives at Berkshire
- Intersectionality
- Drop the I Word
- Slut Shaming Culture
- Gay: DNA or Choice?
- Life as a Black Male in America
- Five points of gender inequality
- The Women’s March
- Chicago Gangs on the South Side
- Heteronormativity
- Let’s Talk About White Privilege
- Woman in Sports
- Perspectives
- Diversity in Brazil
- Bible Study
Thanks!

Any questions?

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