

# **POLISH HERITAGE CURRICULUM RESOURCE GUIDE**

**A MULTICULTURAL GUIDE AND ACTIVITIES SET  
FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE ROLE OF POLES  
AND POLISH AMERICANS IN OUR SOCIETY**



# **POLISH HERITAGE CURRICULUM RESOURCE GUIDE**

**A Multicultural Guide & Activities Set  
for Elementary School Students  
on the Role of Poles & Polish Americans  
in our Society**



## **Teacher Guide**

*October is Polish Heritage Month --- Celebrate!!!*

## **Polish Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide**

*A Multicultural Guide and Activities Set  
for Elementary School Students  
on the Role of Poles and Polish Americans  
in our Society*



**THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN PREPARED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL  
TEACHERS, CITYWIDE, TO ENHANCE MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND  
ETHNIC PRIDE IN POLAND.**



### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Enclosed you will find a book of material which is divided into four sections:

- a. Teacher Guide
- b. K - 2
- c. 3 - 5
- d. 6 - 8

1. Divide the sections as separated by different colored sheets. Make copies of the Teacher Guide (a) and place one with each grade-level section. (b,c and d).
2. Distribute sections for use by appropriate grade level teachers.

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Chicago Public Schools**  
1819 West Pershing Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60609

**Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees**  
Gery Chico, President

**Trustees**  
Norman R. Bobins  
Tariq Butt, M.D.  
Avis LaVelle  
Gene R. Saffold

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Paul C. Vallas

**Chief Education Officer**  
Cozette Buckney

**School Leadership and Development Officer**  
Lula M. Ford

**Chief Language and Cultural Education Officer**  
Armando M. Almendarez

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

This project was made possible through the encouragement of Mr. Paul Vallas, Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools

The Polish Heritage project is a product of the Office of Language and Cultural Education, Chicago Public Schools, and the teachers of Smyser Elementary School who are part of the Education Subcommittee of the Polish American Heritage Committee.

## **Appreciation for product coordination is expressed to :**

Mr. Armando Almendarez - Chief Officer, Office of Language and Cultural Education  
Ms. Aniela Bartoszek - Project Facilitator; City Wide Polish Bilingual Facilitator; and  
Region One Bilingual Facilitator  
Mr. Robert Cannon - Editor, Office of Language and Cultural Education

## **We thank the following dedicated Chicago Public School teachers from Smyser Elementary School for their work on this project:**

Pola Kurczaba, Bilingual Lead Teacher; Chairperson Smyser Elementary School  
Chicago-Warsaw Sister Cities Program  
Stanislawa Naumczyk  
Grazyna Wisniewska  
Wanda Olbrychowski  
Michal Garlinski

## **Special Appreciation is expressed to the publication's historian and editor**

Danuta Schneider

## **Appreciation is also expressed to those who assisted in the project:**

Jeannie M. Gallo - Principal, Smyser Elementary School, 1997 Outstanding Principal  
Award Recipient  
Christopher Kurczaba - Co-Chair, Polish American Heritage Committee; Member of the  
Chicago Warsaw Sister Cities Committee; Treasurer - Advocates Society  
Caroline Betka - Teacher, Polish American Heritage Committee  
Eva Betka - Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor for Ethnic Affairs  
Mary Ann Braski - Assistant to the Secretary of State for Ethnic Affairs  
Bonita Spinka - ESL Teacher - Smyser Elementary School  
Joan Wodrich - Polish Bilingual Assistant - Smyser Elementary School  
Council of Educators in Polonia





CONSUL GENERAL  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

August 29, 1997

GREETINGS

As Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago, it gives me great pleasure to extend my congratulations to the Chicago Public Schools and Polish American Heritage Committee for your outstanding project. Your dedication and continuing efforts in education and culture are to be applauded.

Also, let me offer sincere words of appreciation to all those who contributed to this invaluable and innovative material that was inspired by the heritage of many generations of previous and present emigrants from Poland.

Education has always been among the highest priorities of both Poland and America. This Heritage Curriculum broadens students' awareness of our values and acknowledges the contributions made by Poles to all aspects of American life.

I believe that the materials written by educators in the Chicago Public School System will prove an enormous influence on generations of young Americans studying Polish history and culture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryszard Sarkowicz".

Ryszard Sarkowicz

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
Proclamation

WHEREAS, over one million residents of Polish descent in the State of Illinois join in celebration of their Polish heritage during the month of October; and

WHEREAS, Polish immigrants sought freedom, democracy, and a better way of life in America and brought with them their cherished national customs, their love of closely-knit family life, and their affection for their adopted country; and

WHEREAS, October is a national observance focusing on the many contributions of Polish Americans to the fields of education, science, medicine, law, business, public service, industry, and the arts; and

WHEREAS, the observance also recognizes the vital role of Polish American teachers engaged in the noble work of educating youth. Teachers encourage inquisitiveness, appreciation, and respect for the ideals preserved by Americans of Polish descent; and

WHEREAS, in October, we join Americans of Polish descent to celebrate their priceless heritage of democracy, tolerance, and humanitarianism;

THEREFORE, I, Jim Edgar, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim October 1997 as POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH in Illinois.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,  
this TWENTIETH day of AUGUST, in the  
Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred  
and NINETY SEVENTH, and of the State of  
Illinois the one hundred and SEVENTY-NINTH*



*George A. Ryan*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Jim Edgar*

GOVERNOR



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
CHICAGO 60601

JIM EDGAR  
GOVERNOR

August 28, 1997

Greetings:

As Governor of the State of Illinois, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Polish American Heritage Committee on their statewide distribution of the Polish Educational Resource and Activity Guide in honor of Polish Heritage Month.

I would like to commend educators in the Chicago Public School system with the support of the Chicago Board of Education for their role in the development of the materials which include the many contributions of Polish people to the world. The guides will include information about Poland's rich culture, heritage and history with emphasis on Polish Americans. This program will broaden horizons as well as foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the Polish culture in a time of world globalization.

Please accept my appreciation for your contributions to the citizens of the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Edgar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jim Edgar  
GOVERNOR





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY  
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

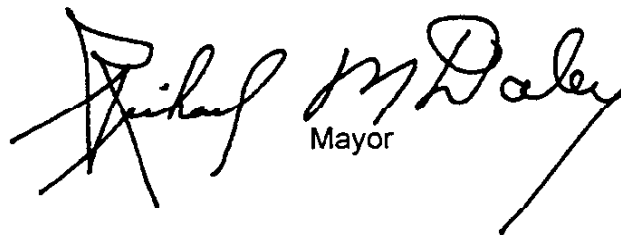
WHEREAS, during the month of October, 1997, Polish Americans will celebrate their culture and heritage; and

WHEREAS, many Chicagoans proudly trace their roots to Poland, a land whose rich and colorful past is rivaled only by the bright promise of its future; and

WHEREAS, during the month of October, as we celebrate the many contributions that Americans of Polish heritage have made to our city's history and culture, we also reaffirm the strong and friendly ties between Chicago and Poland.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD M. DALEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim October, 1997, to be POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN CHICAGO, and urge all Chicagoans to recognize the many contributions that Polish Americans have made to the growth and development of our city, state and country.

Dated this 26th day of September, 1997.

  
Mayor



GERY CHICO  
President

**TRUSTEES**

NORMAN R. BOBINS  
DR. TARIQ BUTT  
AVIS LaVELLE  
GENE R. SAFFOLD

# Board of Education

**CITY OF CHICAGO**

1819 WEST PERSHING ROAD  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609

TELEPHONE (773) 535-3730  
FAX (773) 535-3720

OFFICE OF THE BOARD

October 1, 1997

To Our Teachers:

America is a nation of immigrants, who came here from all corners of the world and who have created a unique nation. The United States is an amalgam of many cultures - - from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. These cultures form an important part of our heritage.

The Chicago Public Schools recognizes the value of these cultures and so is creating curriculum resource guides to help teachers share this heritage with their students. This Polish Heritage Guide is one of these. It brings together helpful information so teachers can teach children from Polish backgrounds about their cultural heritage and so other children can also be introduced to the customs, art, literature and history of the people of Poland.

Our diversity is our strength, because it gives all of us a deeper, richer heritage to draw upon. It can prepare our children for living in a global society. Finally, it broadens their knowledge and understanding of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gery J. Chico".

Gery J. Chico  
President

Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees

GJC:eb



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

---

**Paul G. Vallas**  
Chief Executive Officer

October 1, 1997

Dear Teachers:

The world is changing, more and more rapidly and our children will be living and working in a world much different from ours. While it is not possible to predict the future, it is clear that the world is getting smaller. We are rapidly becoming a global society.

In such a society, people will need a larger view. They will need to know about and relate to many different cultures. Those of us entrusted with the task of preparing the children for adult life need to include in our teaching information about other cultures.

The Polish Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide is a valuable addition to every teacher's desk. It contains many useful ideas that will help the resourceful teachers to include information about Polish history, art, science, music and politics in their classroom activities.

This guidebook reflects the commitment of the Chicago Public Schools to finding ways to help teachers in their quest for excellence in their instruction.

Cordially,

Paul G. Vallas  
Chief Executive Officer

PGV:lw



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS • 1819 WEST PERSHING ROAD • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609

**Cozette Buckney, Ed.D.**  
Chief Education Officer  
773/535-3700  
FAX 773/535-8461/3721

September 30, 1997

To our teachers:

The history and culture of Poland go back over a thousand years, to 966 A.D. In the centuries since, the Polish people have created a rich culture that has contributed to the betterment of the world in many spheres. From the discoveries of Copernicus to the music of Chopin, from the military contributions to the American revolution by Casimir Pulaski and the scientific work of Marie Skoldowska Curie to the leadership for freedom by Lech Walesa, people everywhere have been touched by the sons and daughters of Poland.

Chicago has been especially fortunate that so many people emigrating to America chose to settle here. Their contributions to the building of this great city have been numerous, if too often taken for granted.

This Polish Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide will help our teachers to share this rich culture with our students who have a Polish background. But its value is not limited to these children. As we approach a new millenium, it is essential that all our students learn to understand, respect and appreciate the many cultures of our world that enrich our lives.

The teachers who gave their time and talent to creating this guide are to be commended. I hope that all teachers look for ways to include some of the ideas in this book into their own classrooms.

Sincerely,

Cozette E. Buckney  
Chief Education Officer

CEB:kn