

LEYDEN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212
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DISTRICT 212'S ONE BOOK, ONE LEYDEN SELECTION

Janine Asmus, West Leyden High School librarian and District 212's One Book, One Leyden coordinator, has announced [*I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*](#) by Erika L. Sanchez as the 2019-2020 One Book, One Leyden selection.

A National Book Award Finalist, Sanchez is hailed as a poet, feminist and advocate for young women. Her quest is to write empowering stories about girls of color – the type of books she wanted to read as a young adult, but at that time, weren't available to her.

Enter Julia, the central character in Sanchez's story. Julia is not the perfect Mexican daughter. Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college; they don't move out of their parents' house after high school graduation; and they never forsake their family. The perfect Mexican daughter is Olga, Julia's older sister. But a tragic accident leaves Olga dead, and it is up to Julia to rebuild the shattered lives of her family - a difficult task for a grieving teenager.

This May copies of Sanchez's book were distributed to faculty and staff at both campuses. Employees were encouraged to read the book during the summer; and in the fall, to "pay forward" and pass the book on to students. The book campaign will culminate in mid-February when the author visits with students at both campuses.

Meanwhile, Asmus is organizing activities relating to the book, all with the idea of involving as many readers as possible in the One Book, One Leyden campaign. Sanchez's book is "insanely popular" at both campuses, Asmus says, noting that the author's book is filling a void.

This is the third One Book, One Leyden campaign at District 212. The first book was *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande. The second selection was *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John.

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