

October 2022

## MONONGALIA COUNTY SCHOOLS DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

**“LANGUAGE IS UNIQUE ALL OVER THE WORLD”**



### Monongalia County celebrates the different languages throughout the world in October

*Monongalia County Schools is committed to providing a mutually respectful educational environment that is welcoming to all individuals from diverse backgrounds that promotes individual development, intellectual growth, and responsible citizenship*

There are over 7,000 different languages that are spoken throughout the world with more languages emerging every day. In the United States there are 347 languages that are spoken with English being the primary language.

In Monongalia County Schools we have 60 countries represented and 54 different native languages.

Why is it important to learn other languages? It can be beneficial to learn words or phrases of other languages because it allows us to communicate and form relationships with others.

We are living in a globalized world and interacting with individuals that speak different languages on a daily basis. Helping expose our kids to different languages can help them succeed as they go throughout the lives.

In Monongalia County Schools our students have the opportunity to learn many different languages. This exposure will help our students to learn and be prepared for life when they leave Monongalia County Schools.

### October Observations

- Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- Global Diversity Awareness Month
- Italian-American Heritage Month
- LGTB History Month
- National German-American Day- Oct. 6th
- National Stop Bullying Day- Second Wednesday in Oct.

For questions or more information please contact:

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### IN THIS ISSUE

#### GUARDIAN CORNER

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*THE GUARDIAN CORNER IS OPTIONAL READING FOR PARENTS THAT*

#### LOOK BACK AT LAST MONTH

Learning a second language has many benefits to it.

- Career options can improve
- I can expand one’s knowledge about other cultures
- It helps boost creativity
- Helps connect with other people.

Even learning certain words or phrases can have benefits to it. All students in K-12 have an opportunity to learn a different language.

How you can help at home

**Help your child make time to practice-** Your child is already participating in some type of foreign language at school. Find time to talk about or practice what they learned.

This does not need to be every day, but try finding time during dinner or before bed. If you know your child is learning about different foods, then try to incorporate that into the dinner conversation.

**Have your child teach you to say something-** Give your child an opportunity to teach you will help them and make it fun for them.

Taking an interest in what they are learning and giving them the opportunity to show you will help them stay interested and engaged in learning a new language.

**Find events related to the language-** See what is going on in the community that celebrates the language they are learning. Providing more exposure and opportunities to learn will help with their interest in the language.

**Ask the teacher for resources-** Ask the language teacher at school if they could send home additional resources to practice at home or if they have any recommendations.

**Provide videos, movies and books in the language-** Again, exposing your child and giving them more opportunities to learn another language will help them. Just make sure they are geared toward children and not adults.

Learning Sign Language

Sign language has a lot of benefits to it. You always hear about the benefits that sign language has for babies and toddlers, but the benefits are there for older kids too.

**Improves Spelling-** Research shows that learning the basic sign language skills of the alphabet can help improve spelling in young kids. It helps give them another way of remembering to spell words.

**Improve classroom behaviors-** Teachers that have incorporated sign language into their classroom are finding it useful with better classroom management. Kids can sign that they need something (toilet, drink, pencil). It helps cut down on classroom interruptions.

**Improves small motor skills-** Because of the dexterity it requires. Sign language helps improve small motor skills.

**Build a better vocabulary-** nonverbal communication is a big part of our communication. Sign language helps reinforce vocabulary and meaning of words. When words can be both seen and heard it leaves a stronger impression on you.

There are benefits to starting your child learning early, but no matter the age sign language can have a lot of benefit. Basic knowledge of sign language is beneficial in jobs such as firefighters, police officers, or other civil servant jobs.

Preview to next Month

November is “Kindness to all cultures”

This month will focus on treating others with kindness. We may all have our differences, but it is important to treat everyone with kindness regardless of those differences.

November Observations

- National Native American Heritage Month
- World Kindness Week- Week of November 13<sup>th</sup>
- World Kindness Day- November 13<sup>th</sup>

*\*Please note that these are not all observations throughout the month. If any were missed that relates to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion it was not intentional\**



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# Skyview Happenings

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**We are lucky to have the knowledgeable Dr. D, James Difilippo, as our Spanish Education teacher here at Skyview. This year, he extended his reach to service all students from pre-k to fifth grade. Fostering a language program in our school is more than just learning how to speak another language. Dr. D incorporates culture, tradition, and geography into his lessons...and he speaks 6 languages! We are honored to highlight his work and dedication to our students here at Skyview.**



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# Buddy Classrooms

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**This month we kicked off our Buddy Classroom program. Different grade levels will be paired up with each other to build our community of learners. After two years of trying to separate due to COVID restrictions, this initiative is a blessing to encourage empathy, understanding, and experiences where students meet and interact with more than just their own classmates. Within the Buddy Classroom program, the Diversity Committee has an activity planned where students will learn and practice saying “Hello!” in several different languages. Stay tuned for pictures in next month’s newsletter!**

