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COUNTY SCHOOLS
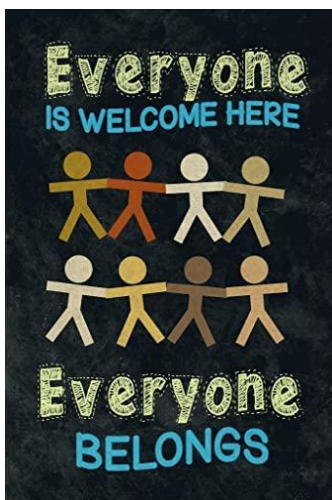
MONONGALIA COUNTY SCHOOLS DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

"EVERYBODY IS WELCOME HERE"

Monongalia County celebrates a new school year with the theme "Everybody is Welcome Here"

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.

The Monongalia County Schools Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee will continue to celebrate themes throughout the year to promote the teaching and observation of different cultures throughout the year.

September's theme is "Everybody is Welcome Here." The focus of "Everybody is Welcome Here" is to create an environment where all of our students feel welcomed in Monongalia County Schools for who they are as individuals.

Coming back to start a brand new school year we want to make sure that our students and families feel that they are welcomed in our buildings.

Monongalia County is made up of many different cultures. We have students and families from all over the world. It is important that we are educating and giving students the opportunity to learn about different cultures as well as teaching about their own.

We will spend this month learning about how we are all part of Monongalia county schools,but we all have our own unique culture that we come from. As a school system we want to show that all cultures and backgrounds are welcomed in our school system.

September Observations
- Hispanic Heritage Month-Sept. 15-Oct. 15
- Deaf Awareness Week-Last week in Sept.

For questions or more information please contact:

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IN THIS ISSUE

Guardian Corner

The guardian corner is optional reading for parents that are looking for additional resources or ideas at home. Monongalia county schools are providing optional resources and respect everyone's differences.

The theme, "Everybody is welcome here" teaches our students about acceptance of others.

Acceptance is not something that we should talk or discuss with our kids every once in a while. It is something that should be a part of our daily discussions with our kids.

Having daily discussions can help our children understand and appreciate differences. It will help encourage respect for others and developing a deeper understanding of self.

Penn State University created an inclusivity toolkit to help parents teach their kids about Acceptance. Here is the link (Inclusivity (psu.edu)) Some general tips from the toolkit are:

- **Be a good example**- The first step for effective teaching is being a good example. Demonstrate respect and consideration for all—regardless of their difference. Take moments throughout the day to find teachable moments and conversations with your child.
- **Be available**- Make time for discussion and meaningful dialog with your child. When questions arise, be prepared to put other issues aside and show genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Always be available for more discussion. This will communicate that it is okay to notice and discuss anything, so long as it is done with respect.
- **Be prepared**- Whether you are a parent, grandparent, teacher or caregiver of any kind, it is a good idea to think about diversity issues in advance so you are neither surprised, nor embarrassed and can respond to sensitive topics with care and confidence.
- **Be age appropriate**- At an early age, children can be reminded that people are different in many ways. It is rare to find two people who look, sound, or act alike.

  "We are all people, and our differences are normal. Look at the children in your school. They are all children, going to school together, but do any of them look like you, or like exactly the same things that you like?"

- **Help broaden their social circle**- Try and find ways to give your teen opportunities to participate in extra-curricular, community and volunteer activities that may bring them into contact with people outside of their regular group of friends. Not only can this help with opportunities for more diversity, but this can help with the feeling to conform if they have different social groups.

- **Monitor media**- Technology is a big part of our everyday lives and even a bigger part of a teenager's life. While parents generally spend less time overseeing a teens media use, it is still important to occasionally monitor what they are doing and watching.

  These days kids are being flooded with different amounts of information through these different media platforms that may be different from your own thoughts and views. Being aware of what your teenager is doing can help with promoting acceptance.

How to get involved

If you are interested in more information or being part of the Parent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee please fill out the form below.

https://fs11.formsite.com/cusilleee/fwccw3zkpq/index.html

We are looking for new parents to bring their thoughts and ideas to the committee. The committee meets 4 times a year and we try our best to work around everyone's schedules.

Preview to next Month

October is "Language is unique all over the world"

This month will focus on the unique languages that are all over the world and in Monongalia County. We will also talk about the benefits of learning a second language and how you can support this at home with your kid(s).

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.

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