



# HANNA

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Issue No. 2 | Date of publication June 2022

### Where We Are...

Our team had the opportunity to meet several times this school year and we made progress in several areas. Each building created their own building level D.E.I. team! These building level teams are critical to our mission of providing awareness and resources for each school community in the designated areas. Our website continues to grow and includes useful resources for staff, students, and families to access. As we move into the 2022-2023 school year, it is our hope that we will continue to identify opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate our diversity as well be courageous enough to engage in the work needed to create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment.

### Student Voice

A panel of STMS students were asked a few questions regarding Mental Health supports as well as the STSD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts this school year. Generally the consensus from the responses are as follows: Students at STMS believe the district is on the right track to supporting mental health of all learners, but more can be done in classrooms and in small and larger group settings. Students enjoy the opportunity to speak with peers and teachers about issues or topics that affect them individually and as a society. Student want more opportunities for these discussions and sharing of cultural experiences with each other. More spirit weeks or events that honor the diversity of our learners are needed. Students are excited to see how much can be accomplished with each building having their own diversity committee and hopes to join as student representatives!

-STMS STUDENT VOICES!

### Cultivating Diversity in the Classroom

So what does it look like to cultivate diversity in a classroom setting? Cultivating diversity in the classroom includes exposure to multicultural literature and multi topic literature. This could look like students of all ages having access to text that have characters that look like them and/or text with relatable situations that students may have or could experience in real life. Allowing students to express themselves in a safe way and judgment free zone is another way to cultivate diversity in the classroom. Educators can have open dialogue with students in the classroom about current events and provide opportunities for students to give honest feedback. Allowing students to bring in artifacts or images that closely represent their culture to share with their classmates. This would also fit nicely with monthly themes or holidays. Lastly, we can cultivate diversity in the classroom by allowing students to speak in their native language. If comfortable, we can even ask them what some words or expressions mean. Some students may wish to share dialogue and help their teacher or classmates speak a few phrases in their language. Our students come from many different cultural backgrounds and experiences. We want to share diverse experiences with all of our students so that everyone feels included, cared for, respected, and represented at Susquehanna Township School District.

-Ashia Philippe (SL/AC Teacher)

### Additional Links & Resources

<https://www.hannasd.org/dei>





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### Recognitions & Appreciations

#### May

Mental Health Awareness  
Asian-Pacific American  
Heritage  
ALS Awareness  
Jewish- American Heritage  
Cinco de Mayo  
Memorial Day

#### June

Pride (LGBTQIA+)  
Alzheimer's Awareness  
Immigrant Heritage  
Juneteenth  
Flag Day

### Building Recognition

Students and Staff at our H.S. and SL/AC participated in the STSD Diversity Day recently. On this day students and staff dressed in clothing that represented their culture and offered peer and staff led learning opportunities! Kudos to everyone that represented and participated in this opportunity to celebrate our Diversity! Below are pictures captured from the amazing day!

