
MONONGALIA COUNTY DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

“ROOTS ALL OVER THE WORLD”



Cultures all over the world



This month we celebrate our students and staff and their roots from all over the world

For the last month we are going to look at what makes us diverse as a county. In Monongalia county we have students and staff from many different backgrounds. We have 54 spoken languages with 60 countries represented in our schools.

Having our students exposed to these different languages and countries in the world help our students become:

More Empathetic

Promoting awareness and creating a personal connection with diverse cultures allows students to be more understanding later in life. It allows them to empathize with people different from themselves.

Gain a better understanding of lessons and people

When working and learning with people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures present in the classroom, students gain a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. It also teaches students how to use their own strengths and points of views to contribute in a diverse working environment.

Become more open-minded

By exposing students to a diverse range of opinions, thoughts and cultural backgrounds, you're encouraging them to be more open-minded later in life. This will make them open to new ideas and be able to attain greater comprehension on a topic by taking in different points of view.

Students feel more confident and safe

Students who learn about different cultures during their education feel more comfortable and safe with these differences later in life. This allows them to interact in a wider range of social groups and feel more confident in themselves as well as in their interactions with others.

Better prepared for a diverse workplace

With the rise of globalization, it's more important to be able to work with people from different cultures and social groups. If students are exposed to diversity and learn cultural awareness in the classroom, it sets them up to flourish in the workplace.

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GUARDIAN CORNER

WHAT MY SCHOOL IS DOING

GUARDIAN CORNER

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

As stated above there are many advantages of exposing your child to other cultures. It allows students to gain a better understanding of different cultures and become more open-minded.

There are many things that you can do at home that will provide your child opportunities to learn about different cultures.

Enroll your child in classes to learn a foreign language:

Not only will your child be exposed to other cultures, but there are also many cognitive benefits. Children that learn an additional language are more creative, better at solving complex problems.

It also helps boost their self-confidence as they are better able to communicate with foreign people and boost their self-esteem, autonomy and confidence.

Be on the lookout for cultural events or festivals.

Another great way of exposing your child to other cultures is taking them to cultural events or activities.

The city of Morgantown has many different events and festivals throughout the year.

[Fairs & Festivals in West Virginia \[Morgantown, WV\] \(visitmountainercountry.com\)](https://www.visitmountainercountry.com)

Try establishing a night a week to a different county and bring that cuisine to your dinner table. Have your kids help with the preparation as you talk about fun facts about the country.

This is a great opportunity to help expose your child to other cultures. Kids eat all the time, but more than likely they aren't aware of the culture that food may be from. This is an opportunity to learn about food and other cultures as a family, but also try new things together.

Look for teaching moments

All throughout our days there are teaching moments. Kids watch different shows and movies with cultural significance behind them, but may not realize it. Find time to talk about what they are watching and teach them about the culture being shown.

There are different holidays that are celebrated in different ways. Take those times to help explain why people may celebrate things differently.

Modeling

As with anything. Anytime you have a chance as a parent to model something it is more likely that your child will do the same thing. By showing an interest yourself will get your child interested too. Talk to your child about how you want to learn with them too.

Recap: What Happened in April at Suncrest Middle

April was Autism Acceptance Month. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee along with the Special Ed team hosted an Autism Acceptance Spirit Week, from April 19-23rd, to celebrate and encourage acceptance of people with Autism.

For Magnificent Mind Monday, April 19, students showed their support by wearing a hat. Wearing a hat demonstrates we all think differently.

For Neurodiversity Tuesday, students could dress up in their best rainbow or tie-dyed clothing to show the diverse spectrums with which our brains work.

One characteristic of people with autism is to show incredibly focused passion for topics of interest. For Show-our-Passion-Wednesday we encouraged students and staff to wear something they were passionate about.

On Thursday, for Autism Acceptance Day, love and acceptance could be shown by wearing RED or GOLD.

On Sensory Friendly Friday, students and staff wore their most comfy clothes. People with Autism often experience sensory sensitivity. The week was a success with many students and staff showing their support throughout the week.

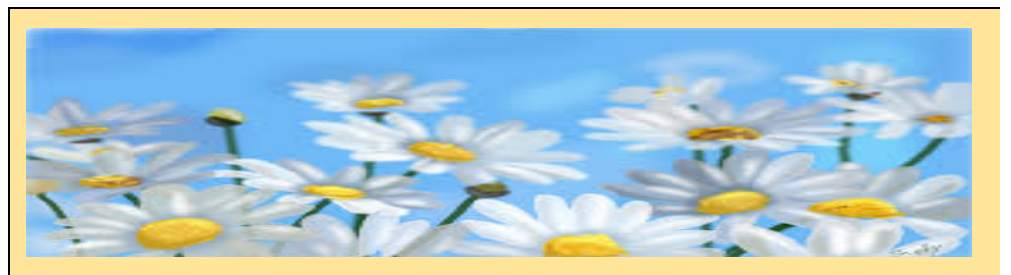


Mrs. Heckman and 7th graders Ella, Kale'a, and Safia dressed for Neurodiversity Tuesday during Autism Acceptance Spirit Week.



Earth Day April 22

Suncrest Middle School students learned about conservation efforts, human impact on the environment, and the history of Earth Day during their visit to the library during the month of April. Allison Oldaker guided students through research on these topics in anticipation of Earth Day. Students in all grade levels were then responsible for making Earth Day posters to celebrate and encourage awareness. These posters were hung around the library and are still on display.



School is Almost Over for the Year!

As we enter the last month of school for students, we are reminded of our good fortune being able to spend this year together. Students were provided a safe and inclusive experience, which permitted them to be themselves and learn and grow. When students have a positive experience in school, it contributes to the good of the community as it makes happy citizens of their parents and happy future citizens of the students. As this school year closes, Suncrest Middle wishes parents and students a happy May! And a glorious and fun-filled summer.

