

DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR



This year Monongalia County Schools will be moving to a quarterly Diversity Newsletter. In the newsletters you will still find what's going on at your child's school and different diversity activities that have taken place over the past couple of months.

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.

MONTHLY THEMES UP TO THIS POINT

SEPTEMBER- "EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE"
OCTOBER- "LANGUAGE IS UNIQUE ALL OVER THE
WORLD"

WHO MAKES UP MONONGALIA COUNTY SCHOOLS?

Monongalia County is made up of many different cultures. We have students and families from all over the world. We have 53 native languages spoken and 60 countries represented in our schools. It is important that we are educating and giving students the opportunity to learn about different cultures as well as teaching about their own.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNCREST ELEMENTARY

Themes

In August and September, our focus was on the theme "Everyone is Welcome Here". Teachers and staff were so excited to welcome students back for another wonderful year at Suncrest! We want all students to feel welcome and safe.

In October, the theme is "Language is Unique All Over the World". We have quite a few languages represented here at Suncrest. See the book corner for some updates from Mrs. Chung about the diverse languages represented in our school library!



Book Corner

Did you know that we have at least thirteen languages spoken at Suncrest Elementary School, and 53 languages spoken in our Monongalia County Schools? Our number of EL students at Suncrest Elementary and Monongalia County Schools has also increased steadily over the last five years. This reflects national trends where the population of EL students has been increasing. The National Education Association (NEA) projects that by 2025, 1 in 4 children in classrooms in the United States will be an EL student (NEA, 2020).

Our schools reflect the diversity of our community, and our school library should also reflect this diversity! This year, our school library was awarded the 2023 Innovative Reading Grant from the American Association of School Librarians. With the \$2500 from this grant, we will be purchasing books in languages other than English for our kindergarten to grade five students! Do you have a book that you think we should purchase? Email Ms. Chung at charlotte.chung@k12.wv.us! Please also fill out the following survey:

<https://forms.gle/uud6pt6iijzgcMYv8>

Need a book in a language other than English now? Email Ms. Chung and she will try her best to track it down for you! We currently have books in simplified and traditional Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Spanish, and French!
Happy reading!