Melrose Family Center
FOR LEADERSHIP AND EQUITY

Breck School
Affinity Groups 2025 - 2026

Purpose

Affinity groups at Breck School allow students to explore crucial issues of identity, equity, joy, and restoration. Affinity groups are opt-in, brave spaces for students of shared, marginalized identities to experience solidarity and support in a community where self-esteem is nourished. It is also an opportunity for students to build leadership skills critical to the daily health of our school community.

Breck School offers robust opportunities for students of all backgrounds to participate in faculty- and student-led clubs and groups centered on shared interests. However, the Melrose Center supports the development of affinity groups, distinct from clubs, connected to cultural identifiers such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, religion/spirituality, nationality, and socioeconomic status.

Scope

Students in affinity groups participate in bi-weekly meetings focused on community building, identity development, and leadership. All groups are guided by an appointed faculty or staff leader who is trained and equipped with the tools essential to leading an affinity group successfully. Our goal is to provide affinity groups with faculty leaders of a shared identity; when that is not possible, we will use our discretion to appoint a faculty or staff leader.

Offerings

Affinity group offerings are subject to change depending on student needs and interests. The following are the 2025-2026 affinity group offerings:

Lower school faculty members lead Lower School affinity groups and offer developmentally appropriate ways for our youngest learners to explore the question: Who am I? Affinity group participation begins in second grade and requires permission from a parent or caregiver.

- **Kaleidoscope:** Open to all students of color in grades 2-4 in the lower school, with rotating breakout affinity opportunities.

Middle School affinity groups follow a mentorship model in partnership with upper school affinity groups. Each group is supported by a faculty leader and two student leaders in the upper school affinity group, providing guidance and support to their younger peers. Parent or caregiver permission is required for student participation in grades 5, while it is not required for students in grades 6-8.

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- **AAPI:** Open to all Asian American Pacific Islander students.
- **Cove/Lighthouse:** Open to all Black/African/African American students.
- **Jewish:** Open to all Jewish practicing and/or identifying students
- **Latiné:** Open to all Latiné students.
- **Mosaic:** Open to all multi-racial students.
- **Muslim:** Open to all Muslim practicing and/or identifying students. (MS & US combined)
- **Native American:** Open to all Indigenous students. (MS & US combined)
- **Prism:** Open to all LGBTQ+ students.

Upper School affinity groups provide students with various opportunities to engage in discussions and projects related to identity at Breck School. These groups are primarily student-led and supported by an appointed faculty leader who shares the same identity. Parent or caregiver permission is not required for student participation.

- **AAPI:** Open to all Asian American Pacific Islander students.
- **Jewish:** Open to all Jewish practicing and/or identifying students.
- **Latiné:** Open to all Latiné students.
- **Muslim:** Open to all Muslim practicing and/or identifying students. (MS & US combined)
- **Native American:** Open to all Indigenous students. (MS & US combined)
- **Oasis:** Open to all Black/African/African American students.
- **Prism:** Open to all LGBTQ+ students.
- **Shades:** Open to all multi-racial students.

Non-Affinity Offerings

Below are offerings open to all Breck students to explore the intersection of leadership and equity:

- **Lower School Agents of Change:** Open to third and fourth-grade Lower School students interested in leadership skill development, with a strong emphasis on justice, empathy, and action. This club engages in intentional community building within and outside our school.
- **Middle School Changemakers:** Open to all middle school students interested in leadership development, with a strong emphasis on justice, empathy, and action. This group will follow the model of the upper school Community Action Council.
- **Upper School Councils:** All interested students are invited to apply to participate in one of six councils in the Upper School: Student Diversity and Inclusion Council, Student Council, Community Action Council, Athletics Council, Arts Council, and Integrity Council.

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For Further Exploration

Research suggests that students are aware of differences early, and providing opportunities for marginalized students to learn about themselves and develop a positive sense of self is essential to their thriving in schools.

- Loving the Skin They're In: Race-based Affinity Groups for Youngest Learners
- Affinity Group FAQ by Rosetta Lee

Contact Information

If you have questions or would like to learn more about affinity groups, please contact Jordan Zickermann, Dean of Equity and program leader for all affinity group offerings at Breck School.

For more information about the Melrose Family Center for Leadership and Equity at Breck School, please contact Dr. Chéleah Googe, Director of Leadership and Equity.