

FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPPER MERION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT DECEMBER 2025



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Culturally Responsive Teaching During The Holidays

December is a time to spread holiday cheer in the classroom. Teachers can use Culturally Responsive Teaching to engage students with holiday lessons and activities. Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) refers to an approach that centers students' cultures, affirms identity, and promotes critical thinking. During the holidays, CRT involves teaching about or sharing various holidays, rather than one holiday being the central focus or universal theme.

Ways To Be Culturally Responsive During The Holidays:

- Highlight common values and discuss similarities between the winter holidays.
- Connect globally. Explore how different cultures and countries celebrate during this time of year.
- Share community and family traditions. Invite students to share meaningful traditions and stories around the holiday season.
- Display inclusive decorations and diverse visuals.

READ: [Culturally Responsive Teaching During The Holidays](#)

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMM



Do you solicit student feedback? Teachers often give students feedback. There is also opportunity for students to give teachers feedback. Student feedback to teachers increases student engagement and builds a teacher-student rapport.

READ: [The Value of Soliciting Student Feedback](#)

["How's It Going"- Elementary Level Form](#)

["How's It Going"- Secondary Level Form](#)



WINTER HOLIDAY APPRECIATION

Winter holidays are celebrated around the world. In the United States we focus on Christmas and New Year. However, there are many cultures that celebrate in a similar way. Click the presentation link below to see how other cultures enjoy this time of year.

[Winter Holiday Appreciation Presentation](#)



STUDENT VOICE



"Even though I am from Saudi Arabia and speak another language, people don't treat me as weird. I am part of the school, people are kind to me, and people help me."

-4th grader, Caley Elementary



My students give me feedback when I give out report cards.

I ask 3 questions:

- What is one thing we do in class that **helps you learn**?
- What is one that is **getting in the way of learning**?
- What should we **add to improve learning**?

-LAURIE WALSH, TEACHER

