



**FROM THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
UPPER MERION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 2026**



**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**  
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**Cultural Competency**

February is filled with opportunities to engage students in cultural appreciation! From Black History Month to Lunar New Year to Ramadan, we can not help but to notice the richness and cultural diversity this month brings. People who are culturally competent desire to learn about cultures other than their own. Culturally competent schools value learning about the cultures present in their school community. Culturally competent educators want to learn about the various cultures represented in their classroom. This is referred to as institutionalizing cultural knowledge. Learning about other cultures goes beyond foods, holidays, and activities. It is having knowledge of how other people experience those cultures. Showing respect for other cultures is equally as important as having cultural knowledge. Educators and students can approach cultural differences with a respectful lens even if they do not fully understand the culture.

**WATCH:**

**["How To Show Respect Towards People From Other Cultures"](#)**

**FEBRUARY APPRECIATION**  
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**Black History Month Presentation**



**2/4 Rosa Parks Day/ Birthday**



**2/17 Lunar New Year Begins**



**2/17 Ramadan Begins**

**STUDENT VOICE**  
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"I would like to share about belonging for me. I was in a STEM group in Elementary School. I had a lot of engagement in that group. I participated in a competition, designed an astronaut suit, and did other really fun stuff with my group. The STEM group in Elementary School made me feel like I belonged there and engaged me in activities."



**"Why are my students refusing to turn in work?"**

This was a common question from the Edutopia community—so we pored over the research to find some answers. 🔍



**THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMM**  
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**Why are some students refusing to complete work?  
Is work refusal a common occurrence in your classroom?**

**READ: ["Addressing Work Refusal In The Classroom"](#)**

