

LCPS Special Education Advisory Committee

Planning Ideas for Inclusive Schools Week

Inclusive Education: One School Community

December 1-5, 2014

Activities that *promote inclusive practices* in school and celebrate **Inclusive Schools Week** can include:

- Share “message of the day” during morning announcements (see attached examples)
- Give Thank You notes to teachers, staff and administrators for all they do to support inclusive education in your school
- Create displays of books in the school library highlighting literature with an inclusive/diversity theme
- Sponsor a student poster contest illustrating themes from inclusive schools week, such as “Things that Make Our School Inclusive”
- Invite guest speakers to share information/personal experiences about disabilities. For example, high-schoolers and recent graduates can speak to students at an elementary school about living with disabilities and how it affects their daily lives and interactions with peers
- Show videos with a diversity/inclusive theme
- Have students complete a learning style assessment and have a classroom discussion about the various ways people learn
- Celebrate Inclusive Schools Week all year long:
 - Develop a morning greeting routine so that all children have the opportunity to communicate with each other at the beginning of each day
 - Design a class mural that depicts students’ views of what an inclusive school looks like
 - Highlight an “Inclusive Practice of the Week” in the faculty room
 - Develop/provide inclusive education tips for parents and teachers for the monthly newsletters

For more ideas on activities to use in your school, see: www.inclusiveschools.org/inclusive-schools-week for the following featured activities including materials and guides:

FEATURED ACTIVITY #1: “WHY WE TEACH”

FEATURED ACTIVITY #2: “THE WORD WALL AND THE ROCK

FEATURED ACTIVITY #3: PROJECT UNIFY “GET INTO IT” CURRICULUM

FEATURED ACTIVITY #4: “INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK SLIDESHOW”



ISW DAILY MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS, COURTESY OF J. MICHAEL
LUNSFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Begin or end each announcement with: INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY HAPPENS HERE—
TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Today is the _____ day of National Inclusive Schools Week. Lunsford Lions know that each of our classmates is unique, special, one-of-a-kind. We know that each one of you in our school learns differently. We want you to know how special you are, and we want you to help other students understand that they are special, too. Sometimes in our society we focus so much on the stars, the athletes, the performers that we forget to recognize that we all make a contribution to our society. Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about how to make sure that all the students in our school feel a part of our Lion community.

Today is the _____ day of National Inclusive Schools Week. Sometimes people make fun of people who are different from them. It's never okay to make fun of another student or person, especially if it's because of that person's race, culture, or disability. Each and every one of us deserves to be treated with respect, regardless of what we look like on the outside, how we speak, or what our grades are. Pay special attention today to how your classmates are talking about each other. Is someone being made fun of? What can you do to stop disrespect in our school? How can you help others in our school feel that they are respected? Tell someone what you like about them. Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about what respect means to you, and how to make sure that no one feels left out or hurt because someone is making fun of them in our school.

Today is the _____ day of National Inclusive Schools Week. We sometimes make decisions about people based on a label or a stereotype. Labels are a convenient way of organizing information about people and events. But labels often become substitutes for thought and experience. Even when labels are accurate and neutral, they describe only one aspect of a person. When they are used as the only source of communication, they limit our understanding and cut us off from full communication. Labels about people are often misleading. They don't tell us very much about a person's thoughts, experiences, beliefs, abilities, or feelings. Stereotypes are beliefs about people based only on their labels. They lessen the chances of interaction among people, and diminish the potential for recognizing and accepting differences. They often lead to certain people being excluded or victimized. When you hear someone say something negative about someone based on a label or a stereotype, try these strategies:

- Think about or share opposite examples when someone makes a sweeping generalization; Give specific rather than general information about people. Point out the good or positive things about others; Politely disagree.
- Point out that what might be true for some is not necessarily true for all; Wait before making a judgment.
- Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about how labels can hurt our community; how you can avoid making judgments about people, including people with disabilities, based on labels or stereotypes; and what we can all do together to stop the hurtful use of labels and stereotypes.

Today is the LAST day of National Inclusive Schools Week. At J. Michael Lunsford, we believe that every student in our school can learn and achieve. Think about a time when you have felt especially included in the learning process in a particular class, and another time when you have felt especially excluded. What makes you feel included? What makes you feel excluded? What do you observe about other students, especially students who might be different from the "norm?" How are they included? How are they excluded? Talk with your friends, classmates, and teachers today about how important learning is to you and to all the students in your class, and what you can each do to make sure that every student in our school is learning and achieving.