



EXCELLENCE FOR ALL  
 Equity and Inclusion Department  
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## Learn, Unlearn and Relearn

As the end of the school year quickly approaches, we may find that we rarely have time to pause and reflect in the chaos of everything. Think about the role you had in education this year and reflect on your successes and areas that didn't work out so well. Most importantly, end it on a high note. Before you completely change gears to summer hope, take the time to pause. Pausing creates an opportunity to hit the reset button in our minds, to be more present, to more fully acknowledge the moments, thoughts, and emotions that are an important part of the end of the school year.

Check out some of the reflection questions below to help you learn, unlearn, and relearn.

- *What did I learn about myself this year?*
- *What challenged me this year? How did I grow through those challenges?*
- *What am I proud of this year?*
- *If I could write myself a letter at the beginning of this year, what would I say?*
- *What am I excited to leave behind in this year?*
- *What lessons do I want to take with me as I move to the next academic year?*

## A Reflection from Sae as she transitions to NHS...

*Just a week ago, I was invited to be a guest speaker for all the U.S. History sections at the high school. The goal of my presentation was to inform students about historical events that led to hardships and successes of the Hmong people, with a strong emphasis on the Secret War and Vietnam War. At the end of the presentation a student asked, "How have all of these events and experiences help shape who you are as a person and what you do in your role as the Equity and Inclusion Coordinator?"*

*Wow, I was not prepared to answer that question. To be quite honest, I was so blown away by this students' question, that I can't even remember what my response was. I've had some time to really reflect on the question though and here is what I have to say...*

*When we have a strong sense of who we are and what our values are, our actions will reflect that. This includes how we show up for work every day and who we are showing up for. It shows up in the way we interact with one another and also challenge one another. Perhaps where it shows up the most is when we are at our most vulnerable state and we are feeling defeated. How we respond to that is who we are as individuals. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to bring my lived experiences with me to Neenah and to be able to rumble with vulnerability and courage.*

*If you were at the 2021-2022 August Convocation, I hope you still can recall some parts of the speech I gave. I often come back to those examples of how I had 'champions' in my life who didn't see the deficits that I had, but instead instilled hope and a better future by seeing the strengths in me. We have students each and every single day needing a champion in their life. **Who has been your champion this year? Who have you been a champion for?***



*\*(Here is a screenshot of one of my slides at the end of my presentation. I hope you will keep this in mind as you reflect on the relationships you had this school year and in future years.)*

You do not have to be defined by the conditions you were born into.  
 Define people by their aspirations, not their challenges.

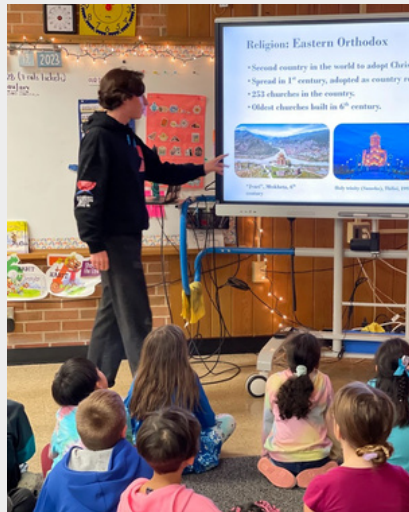
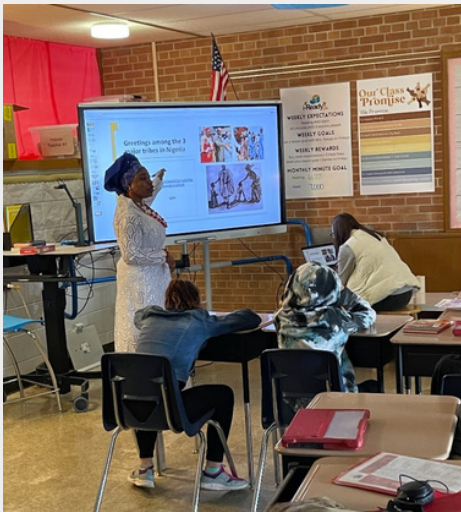
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 Bilingual Resourceful Adaptable Experienced Resilient



# Events in NJSD that Celebrate Diversity & Inclusion



Last month, Hoover Elementary hosted "Around the World in 1/2 a Day". Students and staff celebrated all the diverse cultures in the community and listened to interactive presentations from student and community guest speakers from different parts of the world. There was even food tasting for all of the Huskies as well! There was such positive feedback from students and parents. A parent said that when their child went home they could not stop talking about all the new learning from that day. A great job to all those involved in putting this together!





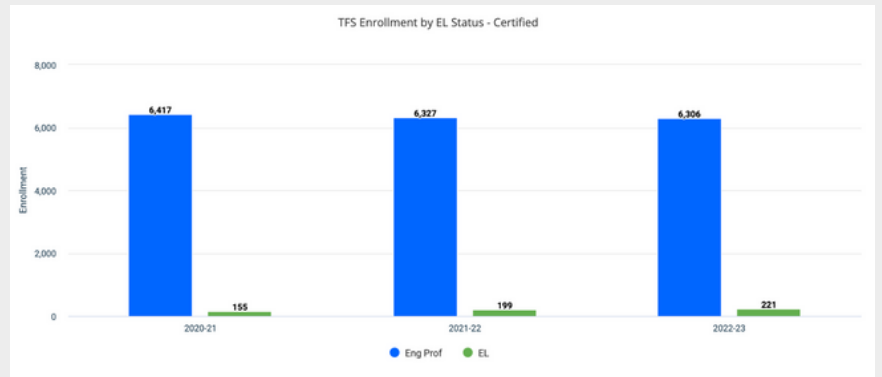


# EL Family Night



**DID YOU KNOW?** In NJSD, we have a growing population of English Learner (EL) students. The data below shows that it is steadily increasing and this school year we have 221 EL students enrolled in our district.

The EL department hosted a district EL Family Night earlier this month at Horace Mann Middle School. The purpose of this event is to provide EL families an opportunity to socialize with their own families and others in the community. Gnome games was present and set up a bunch of games for families to engage in together. There was also face painting, food and other fun activities. This is a great opportunity for staff to consider in the future to build connections with our EL families and students. Would you considering attending next year?







## **MATH DAY WITH THE BREWERS Presented by UW Milwaukee**

Recently, students from the middle school Math Club and Strive2B took a field trip down to Milwaukee to watch the Brewers play for Math Day. As part of this educational day, students learned basic statistical principles through the game of baseball. Students experienced how math can be used outside of the classroom walls and that it can be quite fun.

The advisors of Math Club (Mary Greene, Hannah Brown and Carol Bredesen) worked hard to remove as many barriers as possible to ensure that all students had a great experience. You may be wondering what kind of barriers they removed?

Instead of having students bring money from home to spend on concessions, staff purchased a large variety of snacks and drinks for students to choose from (thanks to community sponsors). Students received a large ziploc bag and were able to stuff as much as they could in there. Lunch was also provided to all students from Jersey Mikes. By doing this, they removed the barrier of accessibility to financial means. All students were able to enjoy the day and not worry about whether they had enough money for food/snacks.

For many of the students, it was the first time they've attended a professional sports game. Many of them expressed that this was an opportunity they would not have been able to experience on their own. Kudos to all the staff/parents who were a part of this fun day.





# N.A.S.A at Neenah High School!

On May 10th, 2023, a true celebration of inclusion was celebrated at NJSD. The event, NASA, which stands for Neenah Applauding Student Abilities, is a day to rally and celebrate students in the district with disabilities through games and activities.

The event is the result of a collaboration between NHS SALT students, district nursing staff, support staff and as well as the OT/PT staff in the district.

Some highlights were the welcome by the marching band at the arrival of students from NJSD elementary, middle, and other campus locations. Following were a welcome from Dr. Mary Pfeiffer, two hours of field day fun activities, and finally lunch.

Staff hope this will become an annual event.

Reach out to Abby Poliak or Heather Epley about your interest to support next year!

- [Here is the link to the article on We Are Green Bay's website.](#)
- [Click here to see WFRV Channel 5's Video reporting of the event](#)



*Disability is the inability to see ability.  
There is an ability in every disability.*

# Looking for something to do this summer to celebrate diversity? Check out some of these events in Wisconsin!

## June

- 1-3 Pride Fest, Milwaukee
- 2-4 Festa Italia, Fitchburg
- 3 Highland Games, Wausau
- 17 Fyr Ball, Ephriam
- 18 Junteenth, Milwaukee

## July

- 14 Honor the earth Pow Wow, Hayward
- 16 Armenian Fest, Milwaukee
- 23 Polish Music Fest, Pulaski
- 29 Hmong Wausau Festival

## August

- 9 German American Heritage, Stockbridge
- 12 Dragon Boat Festival, Milwaukee
- 18 Neesh-La Pow-Wow, WI Dells
- 25 Serbian Fest, Milwaukee



Have a great  
**SUMMER**