

EQUITY AT HMS

2nd Quarter Newsletter



Mission

LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' EQUITY GOAL SEEKS TO IMPROVE THE CULTURE AND COMMUNITY WITH LPS BY ENHANCING INCLUSIVENESS, CULTURAL AWARENESS, ANTI-RACISM, AND ACCEPTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES THROUGH MANDATED CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING, EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMMING, AND DISTRICT OPERATIONS.

Goals

1. SEEK OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE, HIGHLIGHT, AND COMMUNICATE MESSAGES OF EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND DIVERSITY
2. INCREASE STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND VOICE
3. GATHER FEEDBACK & DATA TO DRIVE DECISIONS



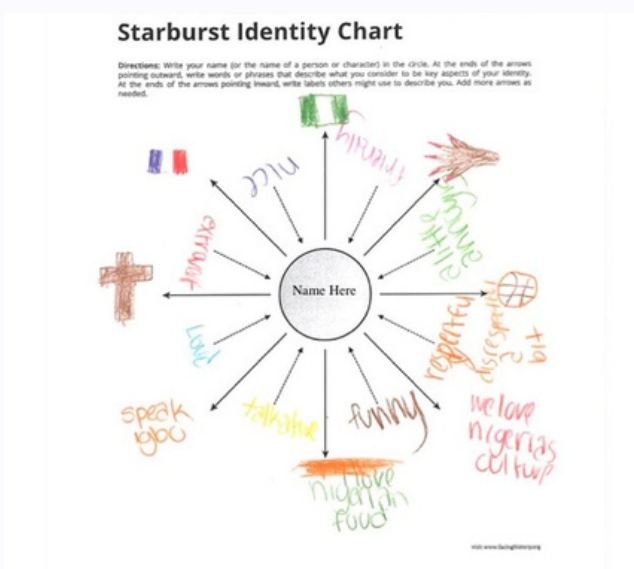
Exploring Identity

HIGHLIGHT



Students and staff have begun exploring the concept of identity and their own identities. The creations of our own identity chart during the last advisory is the first step in better knowing what is important about ourselves.

Advisory Lesson

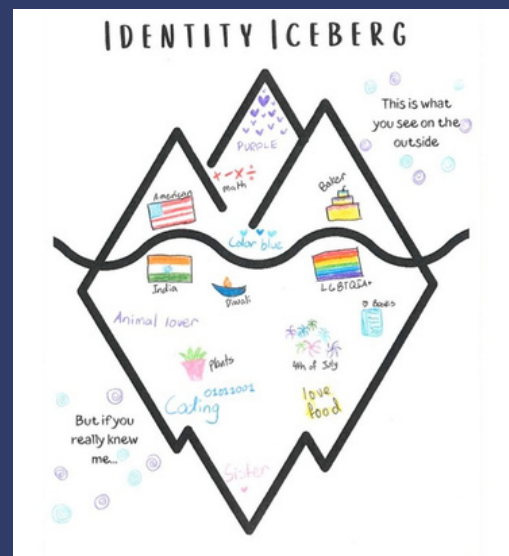


7th Grade

Students in the 7th grade were asked to fill in a chart with arrows pointing outward and inward towards their name. The ends of the arrows pointing outward, they wrote words or phrases that describe what they consider to be key aspects of your identity. At the ends of the arrows pointing inward, they wrote labels others might use to describe them.

8th Grade

Our 8th graders were asked to fill in an identity iceberg. On this chart students were asked to include parts of their identity that can be seen on the outside by others above surface while writing about the unseen parts of their identity below the surface.



Share with your child what you would put on your middle school identity chart!



Identity

Students and staff have begun exploring the concept of identity and their own identities. The creations of our own identity chart during the last advisory is the first step in better knowing what is important about ourselves.

[Click here to see what's next.](#)



Empathy

Building from what we know about ourselves develop an understanding that some aspects of an identity are seen as more important than others. How these factors are perceived by others make a difference in a persons life experiences.



Responsibility

With a better grasp of identity and empathy, what actionable steps can we as individuals do to better our school community? Are there scenarios amongst peers or close friends where we can encourage more empathy? How can we work with other schools in the district to grow what we have started?

HMS Equity Team

Students and Staff Collaborate!

At the beginning of the year our students and staff member would meet separately to work on equity projects. More recently these two groups have come together to meet and share ideas! During the January meeting it was so productive and eye opening that this will now be a regular practice in order to build on already successful Equity work at HMS!



Being Allies

During the 1st staff and student joint meeting our very own Eli Morse read an article about subway riders banning together to clean up hate speech and symbols drawn. We drew parallels to this with incidents of hate symbols in our own building and how we could be allies to victims of those symbols. The discussion was amazing and enlightening!

MLK Day

Our Equity Team students put together a beautiful bulletin board representing Dr. Martin Luther King's life and work! The entire school was encouraged to learn more about him and participate in day of service activities on MLK Day!



Upcoming Events & Equity at Home

Black History Month

This month we will feature young black activist who are currently making history. It is important for students to see that history is continuing to be made and progress is not complete. Check out some of these activists here and discuss with your kids today.



Heritage of Heritage World Map



Students are encouraged to show off their family heritage by pinning their cultural identities on our world map! We are looking to highlight some of our student's families and diverse backgrounds and experiences. Talk to your child about their heritage. COMING SOON!

HMS Equity Team Meeting

Join us for our next meeting on
Wednesday, March 1st at 7 PM
[Click here to RSVP now!](#)

