

EDC Monthly Digest

December, 2018

"The best anti-poverty program is a world-class education."
- Barack Obama



The WHPS Equity and Diversity Council is a group of teachers, administrators, parents, and community members with the common goal of advancing educational opportunities for all WHPS students and their families. The EDC consists of 6 subcommittees, each working on projects that enhance and enrich our district. ANYONE is welcome to join a subcommittee at any time! to visit

Click [HERE](#)

the EDC Website!

Capacity Corner

In an effort to make our schools more welcoming places, WHPS has engaged teams of stakeholders in a 'Welcoming Schools Assessment' throughout the year, with results being shared at each school in the spring). Below are some simple tips, excerpted from [Beyond the Bake Sale](#) (2007) by Henderson, Mapp, et. al. and [Powerful Partnerships](#) (2017) by Mapp, Carver and Lander that apply to a variety of settings. Also, check out Partnership video clips on [Linking Family Engagement to Learning](#) scholastic.com/PartnerResources (Password is 'Effective')

Tips for Linking Families to Learning

"Initiatives should strive to bring families and staff together so that they can learn from and with each other."

- Displaying student work, along with scoring guides to rate levels of performance
- Contacting families regularly about student progress, through Friday folders, notes, and phone calls
- Holding math, literacy, and health nights, and family "questions about school" events
- Offering student-led family conferences, where students discuss their work and assess its quality
- Holding workshops for families on planning for college and information about college admissions

EDC Subcommittee Information

The **Ethnic Affairs** subcommittee consists of educators across the district who collaborate, plan, and support programs and opportunities for expanding and sustaining diversity. **We are currently seeking a subcommittee chairperson and additional subcommittee members.** For details about the role and responsibilities of the subcommittee chair and members, please contact [Roszena Haskins](#) or 561-6900.

The **Future Educators of Diversity Program**, in partnership with local colleges, encourages, provides training, mentorship, and support for high school students of ethnic diversity to enroll in a CT teacher preparation program. The goals of this program are to ensure that students, as aspiring educators of ethnic diversity, are identified, mentored, and are encouraged to build relationships with those who can support them in their journey to becoming West Hartford professional educators. Contact [Jamahl Hines](#), [Lara White](#), or [Kim Ambrose](#) for more information.

Next Meeting

**Thurs. 1/24/19,
Town Hall
Room 400**

<p>The Family Engagement subcommittee’s research and work aim to provide opportunities for family engagement and seeks to address barriers based on 5 key principles: 1.) Providing a welcoming school environment and reducing identified barriers; 2.) Active two-way communication utilizing a variety of mediums. 3.) Positive communication regarding student behavior & achievement to families. 4.) Communication that allows for the identification of experiences that increase dialogue opportunities. 5.) Opportunities for families to be involved and influence planning/policy utilizing their expertise. Contact Scott Ratchford for more information.</p>	<p>Thurs. 1/24/19, Town Hall Room 407</p>
<p>The Open Choice Enhancement subcommittee recognizes that the unique sacrifices and needs of Open Choice families require more individualized study and support beyond what WHPS does for West Hartford resident families. Challenges that Open Choice families face may not be common for West Hartford families, and all school staff need to be aware and responsive (i.e. Families with students in multiple districts, multiple schools within district, transportation challenges before/after school, snow delays, etc). Contact Amy Yarbrough for more information</p>	
<p>The LGBT+ Advisory subcommittee offers support and resources for matters of concern to LGBT+ students and staff, and works to better promote inclusion, awareness and respect for all. We want all students and families to feel welcome, regardless of income, race, religion, or family structure. LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other identities) Advisory, with the support of administration, seeks to ensure that this core value is modeled for students, families and employees. Contact Bonnie Arcari or Cathy Davis for more information.</p>	<p>Thurs. 1/24/19, Town Hall Room 422</p>
<p>The Capacity-Building subcommittee serves to facilitate access to opportunities for students and educators and pathways for success through policy, practice, programming and professional development. We recognize that the needs are different at each individual building/level, so attention is being paid to developing a variety of resources and PD opportunities to support varying needs. For information on our Middle/High school work group, contact Shelley Solomon. For information on our Elementary work group, contact Melissa Zych or Dave Barrieau.</p>	<p>Thurs. 1/24/19, Town Hall Room 405</p>

Detailed minutes from our most recent meeting can be viewed by clicking the link below.

[**EDC CORE MEETING MINUTES 9.27.18**](#)

WHPS students learned about the significance of Veterans Day, and honored those who serve, including our very own WHPS faculty and staff.





Conard's *Voices of the World* singing at the West Hartford Human Rights Commission commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. The event included speakers, poetry, music and a reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by members of the West Hartford Community. Donations of non-perishable food items were collected for the West Hartford Food Pantry to benefit families in need.

Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Wed. 12/5	WHPS and CCSU Future Educators of Diversity and Project Blue Devil Direct Partnership Rollout Ceremony. Check out the News Release and event pictures. FEOD Blue Devil Direct Partnership	CCSU	9am - 2pm
Mon. 12/10	International Human Rights Day -WHPS students and staff will promote awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlight the efforts of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions for all. Setting aside a day to commemorate, educate and reflect on the principles that form the UDHR means celebrating the rights we exercise everyday and acknowledging that, as we enjoy these rights, we hold the responsibility to promote the rights of all people.	All WHPS	
12/4 - 12/19	WHPS Winter Concerts - Enjoy a nostalgic and festive selection of winter season music performed by WHPS' talented band, orchestra and choir ensembles.	All WHPS	
Tues. 1/15	Film Screening: INTELLIGENT LIVES - a documentary by award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib. INTELLIGENT LIVES is a catalyst to transform the label of intellectual disability from a life sentence of isolation into a life of possibility for the most systematically segregated people in America. A panel discussion will follow the film. Co-sponsored by The Arc CT, Favarrh, Futures Inc., Harc, Oak Hill, The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights Connecticut	Oak Hill, 33 Coventry St., Hartford	6:30 PM
Sat. 1/26	The Bridge 20th Annual Children's Charity Ball - This elegant black-tie gala will feature a cocktail reception, sit-down dinner, live and silent auction, and dancing. In 2019, the Bridge Family Center will celebrate 50	Marquee Events, G. Fox	7 PM

	years of supporting children and families in our region. During this year's Ball, guests will have an opportunity to learn more about the tremendous growth of our work--particularly in the area of mental health counseling.	Building, Hartford	
--	--	-----------------------	--