

LEADERSHIP – DIALOGUES ON DIVERSITY
APPLICATION ON PG. 2 IS DUE 3/2/12 (10th-12th GRADERS ONLY)



The section of Leadership is a one-term .5 credit class (a different section from the “Link Leadership” class) that will be a great opportunity to increase open conversation on controversial topics, bridge gaps in our community, provide leadership/communication skills, and, most importantly, create change for a stronger future.



Why have a class on this topic? The Farmington Public School District prides itself in its diversity. However, there are issues that continue to perpetuate stereotypes and keep us at odds with one another. We are constantly bombarded by messages of multiculturalism, diversity, and segregation. What do all of these conflicting messages mean? What do they have to do with us and why should we care?

The Leadership Youth Dialogues of the Farmington Public Schools aims to be the first in a long line of ideas where open communication becomes a social and cultural norm. Students will have the chance to share opinions, collect information from others, and eventually, change themselves and their surroundings.

This method has worked before. This past fall, the Farmington/Farmington Hills program was piloted with groups from each of the three high schools. This program stemmed from another, fully formed program. The University of Michigan’s Youth Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity in Metropolitan Detroit has been running for the past several years with great success. Based on surveys, interviews, and unique action projects, it is clear that these dialogues have the ability to make an impact on the people they reach.

Students will participate in group dialogues, supplemented with directed readings. There will also be opportunities for community service and action projects. As students prepare to head off to colleges and universities or begin careers, our hope is that students will act as change agents wherever they go and begin to bridge the gap between race and ethnicity in schools and communities.

Critical to the success of this class will be parental/guardian support. There will be a parent meeting prior to the beginning of the course, and ongoing opportunities for parents/guardians to have their own participation in the process.

FAQs

Q: What is the Leadership – Dialogues on Diversity Class?

A: At the most basic level, the program consists of a series of dialogues, sparked by activities, projects, and social justice outreach.

Q: Why should a program like this be carried out in Farmington Public Schools?

A: Within the Farmington Public School District and the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, many young people are experiencing diversity and segregation simultaneously. More simply put, the different people of this community are often separated due to various identities, many of which are associated with race and ethnicity. Socioeconomic status, level of education, social roles, and many other factors play into this segregated society.

Q: What is the purpose of this class?

A: The main goal of the Leadership – Dialogues on Diversity class is neither to discuss nor to debate one’s point of view. This class is meant to provide an opportunity to discuss these pressing issues through dialogue. This technique has been proven successful among young people in many settings.

Q: Why should youth participate in dialogue?

A: Although many young people see segregation and discrimination as wrong, they are not sure what they can do about it. As high school students, many are preparing to attend colleges and universities where “diversity” and “multiculturalism” are prized, but they are not sure what these words mean when applied to real-life situations. Youth are the future, and by providing communication tools and open-minded conversation, this program may be able to make the future of Farmington Public Schools and its students’ a little brighter.

APPLICATION-DUE 3/2/12

APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Last name:		First name:	
Gender: (circle one)	male	female	other: (please specify)
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Birthday: (MM/DD/YYYY)		Graduation year: (circle one) 2011 2012	
Phone 1: () -		Type: (circle one) home cell	
Phone 2: () -		Type: (circle one) home cell	
Email:			

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION			
Parent/Guardian 1:			
Phone: () -		Type: (circle one) home cell	
Email:			
Parent/Guardian 2:			
Phone: () -		Type: (circle one) home cell	
Email:			

QUESTIONS FOR THE APPLICANT			
Which racial or ethnic group(s) do you most closely identify with (i.e. African-American/Black, Arab-American/Chaldean, Asian-American, Indian-American, European-American/Caucasian/White, Hispanic/Latin@, etc.)?			
How would you assess your level of experience in talking with others about your racial or ethnic identity? (circle one)			
No experience	2	3	A lot of experience
1			5
Explain your answer:			
Why are you interested in this particular class?			

Should I be selected for the "Leadership – Dialogues on Diversity" class, I agree to fulfill the class requirements to the best of my ability. This includes attending the Mandatory Informational Meeting (with parent/guardian), all class sessions during second trimester, and the Final Project/Showcase.	
Applicant Signature:	date: