

February 4, 2021

DAY 4

Courageous Conversations



The Rush-Henrietta
Multicultural Parent
Advisory Council (MPAC)
was formed in 1999 to
encourage conversations
among parents and the
district to empower,
inform, promote high
academic achievement,
provide cultural
and social enrichment,
and instill leadership
qualities in our students.
All parents are invited to
join this important group.

Generations of adults were taught to be "colorblind" as children. In other words, we were encouraged to see everyone simply as individuals and asked not to focus on skin color.

Many of us understood this perspective and incorporated it into our daily lives. For that reason, it can be confusing now to be asked to see people's skin color. In fact, you may know people who say, "I don't see color" and are completely well-intentioned.

While the goal many years ago was noble, a consequence of this teaching is many people did not openly acknowledge differences and may have unintentionally diminished the unique personal experiences of others.

This is one reason why talking about differences now can be so uncomfortable. It contradicts the mindset and philosophy we were taught to have as children. Yet, these conversations are so important to developing better understanding.

Talking about differences such as race, religion, or ability should not be taboo. Instead, these conversations can be a positive way to build connections and develop personal relationships.

The resources provided below will share additional ideas.

Resources for Learning

Please choose at least one of these options for today's journey.

Option 1: Watch <u>Glenn Singleton's Courageous Conversations About Race</u> (5:24)

Option 2: Watch Intergroup Anxiety: Can You Try Too Hard to Be Fair? (5:31)

Option 3: Read Colorblindness, the New Racism





Consider these ways to reflect, grow and take action:

Ideas to Consider for Self-Reflection:

- Review the <u>Continuing Courageous Conversations Toolkit</u> and complete the activities independently, with a friend, with your family or with colleagues at work.
- Watch <u>Why Do Labels Matter</u> and think about whether you are comfortable having conversations about differences with other people.
- Think about a time you were uncomfortable and consider the <u>four agreements of</u>
 <u>Courageous Conversations</u> to expand your growth in this area.
- Attend an upcoming MPAC meeting and learn more about the work being done through this committee.

Office of Professional Learning Google Site Offering:
Social Justice Standards | Unpacking Diversity (1 hr CTLE)

Additional Resources

A follow-up to Glenn Singleton's 2005 best-seller, this second edition includes added content to help people of different backgrounds gain a greater understanding of the need to have productive conversations about race.



To view this content online, click here.

To view past days of the R-H Equity Journey, click here.