

DOVIA Mississippi Presents

Ideas for Helping that Honor Diversity

- Have a photography contest after taking field trips to diverse locations in your city. Have the student photographers write essays about the differences and similarities among neighborhoods. In the essays, suggest ideas about how to help people, the environment, the buildings, etc. Post the pictures and essays in a school, at a shopping mall, or at a city building.
- Create a club that promotes multicultural awareness, increases tolerance of differences, practices kindness and addresses critical social issues. Sponsor speakers from various backgrounds to talk to the group. Also, re-create different cultural holidays with food and festivities. Discuss the differences and similarities among all the groups.
- Have a “Show and Tell” day where students bring in items that represent their heritages, e.g., cookware, food, or clothing. Discuss kindness and the role it plays when experiencing various cultures.
- Have an ethnic potluck where everyone is given the name of a country. Each student researches an area and brings in an entrée or dessert from that part of the world. Dress in clothing from that region and discuss kindness as the “international language.”
- Create a cookbook with recipes from different cultures. In the cookbook, include kindness stories and information about the food or the region from which it came. Distribute the cookbook to teachers, administrators, friends, and the community.
- Create a multicultural event for the community. Each “exhibitor” should plan a display of his or her culture or heritage, an essay, a map, personal artifacts, music, costumes, or food. Include flags from the countries, and be sure to extend kindness and hospitality to every guest. Afterward, discuss the responses and comments of the visitors.
- Hold an “International Dress Parade” and collaborate with both art and music experts to include ethnic studies in the activities. Be sure to discuss the role that kindness has across the world.
- Hold an “International Dance Festival” where dancers will be able to actively participate with family and community members in learning about the customs and dances from across the world.
- During morning announcements at school, have the principal announce a little known fact about a country or culture each day of the week. Include a kindness quote from a famous person from that country.
- Set up pen pals from different countries for the members of your class, community group, or club to communicate with on a regular basis. Be sure to hold class meetings to discuss the differences and similarities between your students and their pen pals.
- Read a story from another culture. Ask students to choose words from the language of that culture. Practice speaking the words together.

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