



School Year 2020-21

Dear families,

As Director of Unity & Diversity at The Wheeler School, I write to offer a warm welcome to our new families and welcome back to our returning families!

At Wheeler, celebrating diversity is at the core of what we do, and as such, we reserve multiple opportunities across the school year to celebrate the rich diversity within our own community. A sampling of events from last year is listed below, as is a description of the Office's purpose.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions you might have about Wheeler. In addition to my professional role, I was a parent at Wheeler for 16 years and was a Trustee for 6 years, so I am happy to be of service in any way I can as you join us here at Wheeler.

As I embark upon my eighth year leading Wheeler's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiatives, I eagerly look forward to getting to know your children and working with all of you in the years ahead.

All my best wishes to your family to be well and stay safe!

Princess

[Princess Sirleaf Bomba](#)

Director

## **The Office of Unity and Diversity at Wheeler**

The Office of Unity and Diversity develops programs, initiatives, and curriculum across all divisions and provides ample opportunities for candid dialogue which will further strengthen unity within our diversity.

The Office was established in 2002 to support the ongoing efforts undertaken by Wheeler to incorporate a multicultural community in order to enhance academic excellence. The Office

provides resources to the Wheeler community in developing and maintaining inclusive and equitable practices.

The office consists of a director, four divisional U&D Coordinators, and a Student Support Coordinator for non-traditional college counseling and post-graduate success.

Our philosophy on diversity is grounded in the recognition that our school exists in a community, state, country, and world represented by a multitude of cultures and viewpoints. Diversity and multiculturalism, therefore, imbue all that we do. From academic programs to athletic programs, extracurricular and co-curricular activities, Wheeler endeavors to create an environment that includes people and viewpoints from a variety of cultures, backgrounds, and ways of life.

As an N-12 Community, Unity & Diversity curriculum at Wheeler is developed with individual grade and age-appropriate information and approach to the same concept which is recognizing, discussing and having respect for all socially significant identities (age, gender, gender identity, race, ability, sexual orientation, economic status or religion).

Additionally, faculty and staff engage in ongoing professional development opportunities in the area of multicultural teaching and learning, and in cultivating and creating an anti-racist community demonstrated by healing and reconciling with our past.

Some of the non-academic programs which support our institutional initiatives are events such as the multicultural performance showcase, Students of Color Mentor Program, Faculty of Color Mentoring Program, Coffee, Cupcakes and Conversation, Wheeler Adults Interested in Cultural Awareness and multiple social events for families with adopted children, LGBTQ families and families with children of color.

## **Unity & Diversity Events and Programs 2019-20**

### Upper School Groups & Events

- SICA (Students Involved in Cultural Awareness)- Meets regularly
- QSA (Queer/Straight Alliance)- Meets regularly
- Affinity Groups- Meet regularly
- Students of Color Mentor Program - Pairs meet weekly
- NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference-
- SICA Potluck Dinner and Community Spirit Award Program
- Unity & Diversity Week
- GLSEN Conference)
- AISNE High School Students of Color Conference
- Ally Week

### Middle School Groups & Events

- SICA (Students Involved in Cultural Awareness)- Meets regularly
- QSA (Queer/Straight Alliance)- Meets regularly

- Students of Color Mentor Program - Pairs meet weekly
- AISNE Middle School Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Conference
- AISNE Middle School Students of Color Conference
- Unity & Diversity Week

#### Lower School Groups & Events

- Unity & Diversity Week
- Students of Color Mentor Program - Pairs meet weekly
- Language, cultural and immigration studies

#### Opportunities for All Students/All School Community Events

- Welcome Barbecue for Families with Children of Color
- LGBTQ+ Family Planning and Dinner Meeting
- Multi-Cultural Performance Showcase
- SICA Potluck Dinner and Community Spirit Award Program
- Wheeler Diversity Conference
- End of Year Celebration for LGBTQ+ Families
- End of Year Celebration for Families with Children of Color
- Diversity Committee Meetings (Monthly)
- Adoption Parents Coffee Drop-in (Monthly)
- LGBTQ+ Parents/Guardians Coffee Drop-in (Monthly)
- Coffee, Cupcakes, and Conversation- Parent/Guardian Diversity Discussion groups (Quarterly)

#### Opportunities/Events for Faculty & Staff

- WAICA (Wheeler Adults Involved in Cultural Awareness)- Meets Regularly
- AISNE Diversity Conference
- NAIS People of Color Conference
- White Privilege Conference