

# JEDI Meet The Pros

## (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

Why add a JEDI committee to your leadership class?

My class is divided into committees. The committees are formed by providing students with a description of the committee and asking them to sign up for the committee they prefer. (I might ask for a top two in case the committees need to be balanced.) This was the first year I added a JEDI committee and the students were very excited. I asked the students to share how they feel about the committee and the tasks they have currently performed. (See Attached)

The committee started during our leadership training in the summer to research the religious and cultural events that happen each month. They reach to students and teachers in the following ways:

1. They design a basic poster to represent the event or person they want to highlight. Next they use a QR code where students and staff can access additional articles and information about the event or person being celebrated. Students usually create a short slide deck to help organize the information.
2. The same slide deck is shared on our HPTV which is a media class that provides a newscast type video to students twice a week.
3. The same slide deck information is shared with teachers as well to post to their google classrooms or websites. What teachers choose to share is up to them.
4. One of our favorite resources is :  
<https://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2022>

Those are our ideas - What do you have to share?

**Jiya (8th grade):**

My favorite thing about being in the J.E.D.I Committee is being able to spread the things I am passionate about, such as social justice, around the school. We are able to celebrate each other as well as holidays that sometimes go unappreciated. This committee helps educate people and has also taught me that there are so many celebrations that unfortunately do not get recognized. We attempt to celebrate as many holidays as possible but it is inevitable that we miss some. Occasionally, we do have to pick and choose what special occasions to celebrate. This can be difficult because we don't want to seem as if we are overlooking some days and prioritizing other ones. However, I am still thankful that Harvest Park has this committee because we can build a more inclusive community.

**Yilin (8th grade):**

I love being in this committee because we have the opportunity to celebrate everyone's differences. We can help people learn about each other's backgrounds and cultures. Being in this committee has taught me that we should be proud of what makes everyone unique. However, there will always be challenges that we must face. For example, sometimes there is a bump in the road of the approval process of our ideas and posters. That results in some of them not getting seen by other students. However, we try our best to celebrate as many holidays as we can and do research to learn about new ones. It goes without saying that I am grateful to be a part of this group.

**Emma (7th grade):**

The whole reason I joined leadership was because I wanted everyone to be seen and heard. This is why I thought J.E.D.I was the perfect committee for me. Throughout my time in the J.E.D.I Committee, not only have I informed other students about different cultures, but I have also learned things myself, too. While informing others, I've still been able to be creative with my committee by finding new and improved ways of spreading cultural awareness around our school. Sometimes, people are indifferent to the things we do, but I feel like it's a fact that we as a committee are still trying our best to make everyone's culture and heritage heard.

### **Rasika (8th grade):**

I joined JEDI committee because I love to plan for future holidays with my group. I also joined this committee because I knew I was going to be a helpful person in this committee. There are a lot of things we can do as a team, and that makes it less work for each individual person. This also helps spread cultural awareness to the entire school so I have learned new cultures in this committee. I feel like others have learned new things as well. There are more posters to make than other committees. I was happy to do that since I haven't made posters in a long time.

### **List of our celebrations in the year so far:**

- National Women's Equality Day
- Rosh Hasanah (Jewish Holiday)
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- LGBTQIA+ History Month
- Diwali
- Thanksgiving (History of Indegenious focused)
- Dyslexia Awareness
- National Indegenious Day
- Hanukkah
- Lohri (Indian Holiday)
- Martin Luther King Day
- Black History Month
- Lunar New Year

### **List of what we plan to celebrate in the future:**

- Women's History Month
- Zero Discrimination Day
- International Women's Day
- Purim (Jewish Holiday)
- Holi (Indian celebration)
- Cesar Chavez Day
- Autism Awareness Day
- Ramadan (Muslim holiday)
- Asain Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Harvest Park Pride month ( Our school ends early June so we will start celebrating early in May)

