

Dear Student:

Township High School District 211 is committed to increasing equity and fostering cultural responsiveness in our school community. In July of this past year, we established a District 211 Equity Team in order to include and affirm the voices of students, staff, and families from our community as we create an equity plan that will drive short-term and long-term systematic improvement. Part of the Team's mission is to build a greater sense of connection, involvement, and participation with all members of our district community. To accomplish this, we are engaging in an Equity and Cultural Audit conducted by Bea Young Associates, a Chicago consulting firm with decades of expertise in this field of education.

The Equity and Cultural Audit process will begin in February 2021 with the creation of focus groups that will allow us to include and affirm the voices from a representative sample of our school community. The focus groups will be led by representatives from Bea Young Associates, and will be organized into separate, homogeneous racial groups from each District 211 school.

We invite you to join a student focus group representing Palatine High School. The focus group sessions will take place on Wednesday, January 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will be conducted remotely via Zoom. All students will be excused from their academic classes during this time, and all responses held anonymously; no names will be attached to any comments or viewpoints. We are asking students who are interested in participating in our focus groups to complete this form: [Palatine Student Focus Group Interest Form](#). A member of our school community will contact you to confirm your participation and provide you with the Zoom link.

Our goals for this Equity and Cultural Audit include:

- Create a greater understanding of the experience and perceptions of parents and students from Palatine High School.
- Increase the dialogue about diversity, equity, and cultural responsiveness within Palatine High School and between District 211 and the community.
- Continue to breakdown cultural barriers, assumptions, or misunderstandings in order to create a positive experience for all students and parents.

We are fortunate to serve students and families that represent many diverse cultures and backgrounds. We strongly encourage you to take part in our focus groups, as we believe this is an opportunity to understand and respond to the ever-changing needs within both our school community and our broader world. If you have any questions regarding focus groups or our commitment to equity in District 211, please do not hesitate to contact the administrators listed below.

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