

**Vision:**

- A school system where all students succeed regardless of racial or background.

**Goal:**

- To remove racial and ethnic barriers to student achievement in Montgomery County Public Schools.

**Objectives for this study circle:**

- Relationships between students from different racial and ethnic groups
- Greater understanding of the different cultures in the school community
- A presentation to the staff about concerns and suggestions
- Action teams

**Why Study Circles**

“We have run away from race for far too long...We will never achieve racial healing if we do not confront each other, take risks, make ourselves vulnerable, put pride aside, say all the things we are not supposed to say in mixed company – in short, put on the table our fears, trepidations, wishes, and hopes”

*Harlan L. Dalton, author of Racial Healing*

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Where the Wind Blows
- Ground Rules
- Speed Dating
- Cultural Pursuit
- Cultural Timeline
- Stereotypes
- Skin Color
- Where Do You Stand?
- What Are The Issues?
- Next Steps

### **3:00 Date**

1. What do you know about your name? Where did it come from?
2. What do you hope this study circle will accomplish?

### **Cultural Timeline**

1. Take a few minutes to think about memorable events that impacted your life. Write down events in these three categories:
  - What are the important national or global events (for example, 9/11 or war breaking out in your country)?
  - What are the important personal events (for example, parents getting divorced or moving to a new place)?
  - Think about an event or experience that impacted the way you think about racial/ethnic differences.
2. Write 1 example for each category on the timeline.

### **6:00 Date**

Talk about one of the events you put on the timeline.

### **Stereotypes**

*Stereotypes are images, beliefs, or assumptions about a group of people without taking into consideration a person's individual differences.*

1. On one piece of paper, state your racial/ethnic/cultural group and list three words that you believe describe the racial/ethnic/cultural group you identify with.
2. On another piece of paper, list three words that you believe others might use to stereotype your group.

### **9:00 Date**

How do stereotypes impact the school? For example,

- Do stereotypes affect students getting along with each other?
- Do they affect the way some teachers view students?
- Do they affect the way some students view teachers?