



LAKEWOOD

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

21 May 2023

Dear Lakewood Elementary School families,

Our school has a commitment to fostering learning environments in which all students, families and staff feel a sense of belonging. Recognizing the racial disparities that have persisted in how students experience school and access opportunities, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) worked collaboratively with the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC) to examine policies, practices and structures that must change to ensure schools create the conditions for all students to thrive.

Over 130,000 students, staff and families shared insights over the course of two years. Our school has been analyzing the survey results from our own students, staff and families. All 4th and 5th grade scholars (139 students), 181 family members, and all staff members completed surveys. The full results will be posted to our school website (<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/lakewoodes/>) on May 26, 2023 and can be viewed [here](#). We are writing to summarize our survey results so that we can work together with families to gain deeper insights about what our data mean for actions we must take to continuously improve. We studied the specific results where we saw the most significant differences in the experiences of students, staff and families by racial group. A summary of our work so far is below.

WHAT WE EXAMINED

-83% of our scholars report they feel they belong at school and 93% of scholars share that they are friends with people of different races, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds.

-While our scholars agree they are encouraged to participate in class, there is a large racial disparity in the number of scholars who feel comfortable asking teachers questions about schoolwork, with 47% of Black or African American scholars stating they feel comfortable vs. 79% of Asian scholars (our largest racial group)

-Many of our scholars do not feel that what they are learning at school reflects the experiences and contributions of people from their racial, ethnic and/or cultural background and many parents agree.

-58% of our scholars feel they have a trusted adult at school.

-90% of parents believe that our scholars should be taught to recognize, understand and interrupt racism.

WHAT WE LEARNED

- We need to continue to build on the progress we have made to ensure our scholars feel represented here at Lakewood- in texts and curricular materials as well as special events and activities.
- We need to be comfortable confronting issues relating to race and racism and discussing these issues with our young scholars.
- We need to ensure that 100% of our Lakewood scholars feel they have a trusted adult at school.
- We need to build strong relationships with all scholars so that they feel comfortable speaking up in class and asking questions.

OUR NEXT STEPS

We will use this data and our analysis to create action steps which will be included in our school improvement planning, with focus on professional learning our staff will engage in during next school year.

We will continue to collect more voice data from our scholars and community to monitor our progress.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP

- Review the data shared on the school website.
- Attend Dr. Kelly's End of Year meeting on June 12th
- Continue to be involved in the Lakewood community by attending meetings and joining our PTA.
- Share your feedback and input with us through surveys, emails, virtual and in person meetings.

We look forward to continuing to engage with families as partners in designing and monitoring a school improvement plan that includes actions we will take as a result of our data. We are confident that by working together we can increase our students' access to opportunities and ensure that all students, staff and families experience a sense of belonging in our school community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ebony-Nicole Kelly

Dr. Ebony-Nicole Kelly
Principal, Lakewood Elementary School