What is the Office of Equity Justice and Multicultural Education?

The Office of Equity, Justice and Multicultural Education (EJME) is entrusted to reach the goals adopted by our Board of Trustees in the “Statement on Equity, Justice and Multicultural Education.” In this statement, the Board calls the administration to:

- commit itself to the recruitment of administrators, faculty, staff and students from a variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds,
- develop programs that help retain and graduate students from a variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, and
- create an environment of support for all members of our community.

The Director of EJME coordinates the various campus constituents to achieve the broad goals of the Statement and serves as an advisor to the Schools’ community on issues related to the development and maintenance of a multicultural community. As a school, the Office of EJME is called to promote tolerance, awareness, and acceptance of the diversity on campus by fostering a community of understanding and respect for everyone. Our efforts are focused on three main objectives: Outreach, Education, and Unity.

Why does Sacred Heart Schools believe that Equity, Justice and Multicultural Education is important?

The goal of multicultural education at Sacred Heart Schools is to:

- develop a Christian community in which the dignity of every member is recognized.
- design a curriculum that reflects the varied perspectives and peoples of our global community, and introduces students to themselves and others.
- offer a teaching and learning experience that is student-centered and promotes a respect for cultural differences, human rights, and acknowledges the diverse perspectives of its students and is committed to educational equity.
- educate to a critical consciousness that leads its total community to analyze and reflect on the values of society and to act for justice.

How does SHS promote equity and justice and a social awareness that compels to action?

In particular, Sacred Heart Schools…

- fosters inter-religious acceptance and dialogue by educating to an understanding of and deep respect for the religions of the world.
- faculty utilize a variety of teaching and learning strategies that recognizes the individual needs of our students.
- is linked in a reciprocal manner with ministries among people who are poor, marginalized and suffering from injustice.
- prepares and inspires student to be active, informed, and responsible citizens locally, nationally and globally.
- promotes a safe and welcoming environment in which each person is valued, cared for and respected.
- has programs that teach the principles of nonviolence, conflict resolution and peacemaking.

The SHS Path to Creating and Sustaining a Multicultural Community
Multicultural Clubs, Activities, and Events

In addition to a multicultural curriculum, each of the three divisions celebrates the cultural identity of its members throughout the year. The School provides opportunities for all community members to reflect on issues of equity, justice and multicultural education through assemblies, workshops, and clubs.

- Some of the issues that are addressed in community forums include, but are not limited to race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, sexual orientation, learning differences and religion.

- The EJME office sponsors quarterly meetings as opportunities for integration into the community and to address issues related to the development and maintenance of a multicultural community for parents and students who are self-identified as a family of color and/or receive services from the EJME office.

Academic Support Services

Academic excellence is a priority for Sacred Heart Schools. To support all students in grades preschool through twelve to achieve their academic potential, SHS provides services in the following way:

- The Center for Student Success at Sacred Heart Prep offers on-site tutors and learning resource specialists to assist students with subject tutoring, study skills, time management and test-taking strategies. The Center also coordinates accommodations for students with verified learning differences.

- Similarly, at St. Joseph’s School of the Sacred Heart, there is a team of learning specialists who work with faculty and parents to support students with unique educational needs and assist students in finding additional educational assessment and support outside of school.

- The EJME coordinators also offer academic support for students by meeting with them to review grades, arrange meetings, and progress plans.

Tuition Assistance and Non-Tuition Related Financial Aid Program (NTRFA)

Sacred Heart Schools provides tuition assistance to families based on financial need, which is determined by a thorough evaluative process beginning with an application through FAST – Financial Aid for School Tuition. This past year Sacred Heart awarded more than $4.2 million to families on the basis of clearly demonstrated financial need. We are committed to making a Sacred Heart education affordable to all academically qualified students regardless of their financial circumstances. At Sacred Heart Schools we realize that there are additional, non-tuition related costs of sending your child to school. While we try to limit the number of additional costs, we cannot eliminate them completely. The NTRFA can assist families with “extra costs” associated with Sacred Heart such as uniforms, lunches, textbooks, etc. The NTRFA Program is granted after reviewing the financial aid application and is renewed on a year by year basis.

For more information, contact the Equity, Justice & Multicultural Education office at 650.322.1866

Sacred Heart Schools
150 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027
www.shschools.org