

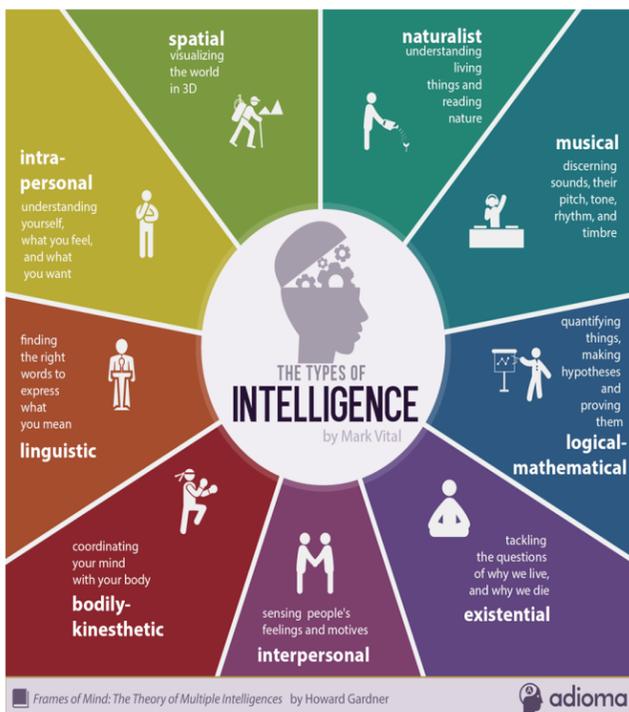
# MONONGALIA COUNTY DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

**“EVERYONE LEARNS AND THINKS IN THEIR OWN WAY”**



## This month we celebrate our students and their individuality

So many times we think of intelligence as one entity, but in reality the perception of intelligence is skewed. There are different types of intelligence. Many people consider scientists as “intelligent people”, but if we had them try and build a building they would probably be lost.



Everyone is blessed with a different type of intelligence. According to Psychologist Howard Gardener there are 9 types of intelligence:

- Naturalist (nature smart)
- Musical (sound smart)
- Logical-mathematical (number/reasoning smart)
- Existential (life smart)
- Interpersonal (people smart)
- Bodily-kinesthetic (body smart)
- Linguistic (word smart)
- Intra-personal (self smart)
- Spatial (picture smart)

We know that each student learns in their own way. The world wouldn't be able to operate if we all had the same “intelligence”. We need Farmers, musicians, engineers, psychologists, teachers, surgeons, authors, philosophers, pilots, etc. in the world we live in.

Students all have different strengths and learn differently. There is no one way to teach or learn. This month is to help celebrate the ways that our students learn and help them celebrate their strengths and continue to grow in other areas.

## April Observations

- National Autism Awareness Month
- Scottish-American History Month
- Pan American Week
- World Autism Awareness Day- April 2<sup>nd</sup>

For questions or more information please contact:

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## IN THIS ISSUE

### AT HOME RESOURCES

### WHAT IS MY SCHOOL DOING THIS MONTH

## GUARDIAN CORNER

*The Guardian corner is optional reading for parents that are looking for additional resources or ideas at home. Monongalia county schools in only providing optional resources and respects everyone's differences*

Parents are used to hearing the term “learning styles” and how their child learns the best. It is common to hear that one child learns best visually and another learns best through movement. While it is important to know how your child learns it is also important to know that kids learn best through multiple approaches. Your child may learn best through one approach, but with a different concept learn better through a different approach.

A way to help understand individuality is to think about it as multiple intelligences. As parents you know that kids have unique abilities, interests, likes and dislikes. You may have a child that loves to read books, one that loves animals and another that loves to build things. While that may be the case it is also important not to label your child as being one thing or another because that can change over time.

Things to do at home:

- **Spend time with kids and see what they like.** Spend time doing ordinary things like having dinner or playing games. As a bonus: regular family dinners have been shown to improve kids' health and nutrition, build strong emotional and mental skills, and lead to good behavior.<sup>4</sup> Having fun and playing with kids is associated with increased empathy and happiness and less anxiety.<sup>5</sup>
- **Value strengths instead of what kids can't do.** "We tend to see what is lacking when we label kids," says Kornhaber. Instead of thinking, *My child isn't good at learning to read*, build your child's sense of pride in things that they are good at. "MI helps parents, teachers, and children understand children's strengths and how these may be used to help them learn and solve problems," Kornhaber says.
- **Engage your child in different ways.** If your child is having trouble writing a paper, boost confidence by drawing out other skills while you help with writing skills. For instance, ask what they've learned; they may be able to describe it aloud, suggests Kornhaber. Or ask them to draw a picture of what they learned.
- **Consider the expectations we have today.** Young children are expected to read and have basic math skills at younger and younger ages. With added pressures come increased expectations, but that doesn't mean all first- and second-graders should be soaring through chapter books. Unless you spot signs of learning problems, relax and let your child grow at their own pace.
- **Know that intelligence is a snapshot.** Unlike general intelligence, which is measured by an IQ score, a child's multiple intelligence profile is not static and may shift over time. Expose your child to all kinds of different activities and experiences and allow them to learn and grow in their own unique way.
- **Look at the value of all the intelligences.** In preschool, we value and praise everything that kids discover and share. But by third grade, kids are expected to be good at math and reading or they can be labeled as not being good learners.

From: [Multiple Intelligences and Kids' Learning \(verywellfamily.com\)](https://www.verywellfamily.com/multiple-intelligences-and-kids-learning/)

These things can help give kids a richer learning experience and it helps making learning more fun and rewarding for everyone that is involved.

## Preview to next month

“Roots all over the World”

This month will focus on how as a school systems we are made up of staff and students from all over the world

## What is being done at Suncrest Middle School

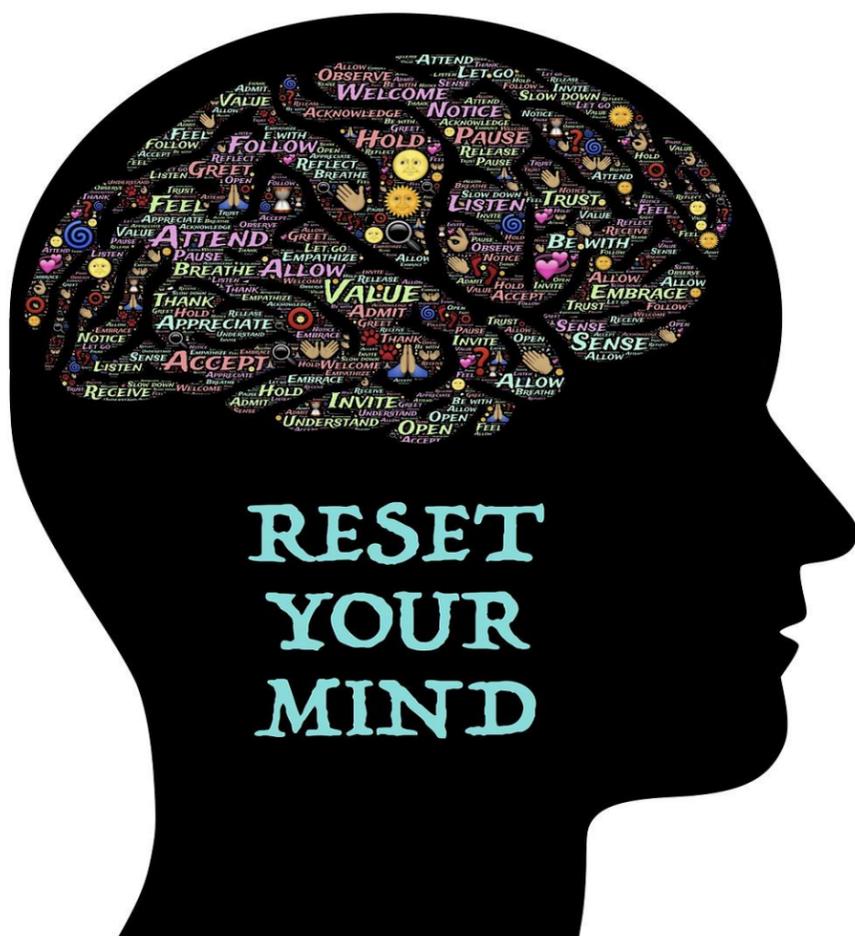
April is Autism Acceptance month. Suncrest Middle School is embracing Autism Acceptance to promote Autism Awareness for the month of April. To create opportunities to educate our students on the characteristics and uniqueness of autism, we put together a "spirit week" promoting the education of the distinctive and exceptional characteristics.

Statistically, 1 in 54 students are diagnosed with Autism and the community of support surrounding those who are diagnosed is moving away from the term "awareness" and towards "acceptance".

April 1st, Suncrest is participating in a 'Blue Out for Autism', dressing in blue to show support for Autism Acceptance. Also on April 1st, in the afternoon before school lets out, homeroom teachers will show the TEDtalk of Temple Grandin with an accompanying activity. This will kick off the spirit week, which will stretch from April 4 through April 8.



Temple Grandin at a book signing.



## Autism Acceptance Spirit Week

**Monday, April 4 - Magnificent Mind Monday** - Autism is a neurological variation, which means the brains of individuals with autism work differently than allistic - non individuals with autism - and that's AMAZING! Students will celebrate how amazing it is that all our minds work differently by **wearing a fun hat/hair**.

**Tuesday, April 5 - Neurodiversity Tuesday** - To celebrate the beauty in the diverse spectrum of the human mind, students will wear Rainbow and or tie dye clothes!

**Wednesday, April 6 - What's your passion Wednesday** - One characteristic of individuals with autism is to show incredibly focused passion for topics of interest. What are you passionate about? Students will dress to show something they love!

**Thursday, April 7 - Autism Acceptance Day** - Love and acceptance go a long way! On Thursday, students will wear gold or red to show their support and acceptance of individuals with autism!

**Friday, April 8 - Sensory Friendly Friday** - Individuals with autism often have a variety of sensory sensitivities. Students will dress up Friday in their most comfy clothes (school appropriate).

*In addition to dressing up in support of Autism, Wendy, the head of sports and programming for the WV Special Olympics will hold a teams meeting Friday afternoon during afternoon homeroom time to discuss the importance of and components of WV Special Olympics.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AUTISM AND THE AUTISM SOCIETY OR WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT FAMILIES, EDUCATORS, AND RESEARCH OF AUTISM STUDENTS [CLICK HERE](#).**

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# Student Council Activities

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The student council has elected to initiate a school wide initiative to help Ukraine for the month of April. From April 25 - 29th, the student council will run a second spirit week to raise donations for Project Hope. Homeroom student council representatives will present to students (in homeroom) what each theme per day is, as well as what [Project Hope](#) does for Ukrainian relief.

For those students who contribute, they will write their name on a "ticket" to win a gift card, which will be drawn at the end of the week.

Our student council representatives have been, and continue to be, outstanding. Suncrest Middle is proud of their initiative and leadership! These individuals are truly a wonderful group of students, and it is exciting to see what good they will continue to do in the world around them.



PICTURE CAPTION: Ukraine flag