



CELEBRATE ME!!!

Purpose: The purpose of the Newport News Public Schools week-long *Celebrate Me* event is to promote a positive school culture and create a sense of belonging and membership for all students. The purpose is also to celebrate cultural heritage which is defined as an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions, and values. (Adapted from the International Encyclopedia of Human Geography, Second Edition, 2020)

Overview: *Celebrate Me* will be a division-wide cultural awareness campaign that will include both school-based activities and a culminating division-wide event. Students, schools and community organizations will collaborate to design and implement the event which will include activities for students in grades K-12 and their families.

Timeframe: Monday, March 7th - 11th ([Coincides with National Foreign Language Week](#))

Activity Sponsorship:

- All NNPS student organizations are invited to design and sponsor a Celebrate Me activity. All sponsored activities will be part of a division-wide schedule that will be communicated with the community. All sponsored Celebrate Me activities must meet the following expectations:
 - The activity must be inclusive to all students.
 - The activity must focus on **cultural heritage**. “Cultural heritage which is defined as an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions, and values.” (Adapted from the International Encyclopedia of Human Geography, Second Edition, 2020) “It (cultural heritage) is also

comprised of living expressions inherited from our ancestors, such as oral traditions, performing arts, social manners, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe, and knowledge and techniques linked to traditional crafts.” [UNESCO](#)

- All sponsored activities should be student led, with the exception of community sponsored activities.
- Be careful to focus on Cultural Appreciation and to avoid Cultural Appropriation, the “social equivalent of plagiarism “. Encourage students to celebrate THEIR own culture!
 - What is Cultural Appropriation? (Article, not scholarly, but helpful)
- Be mindful that some students don’t know their family’s country of origin or their birth story. Be sure to include opportunities to celebrate the broad range of communities in which we have membership (e.g., citizenship, neighborhood, school, etc.) so that every student feels included.
- Both school-based and division level activities are encouraged. To sponsor an official Celebrate Me activity, sponsoring organizations, including student organizations, NNPS Departments, and external partners, are asked to complete a Celebrate Me! Activity Sponsorship Form. These activities will be shared with the public.
- Use the Celebrate Me! Planning Tool at the end of this document to help plan your activity. Upload the plan with your Activity Sponsorship Form.
- Celebrate Me! Activity Ideas

For more information, please contact Bridget Adams at Bridget.Adams@nn.k12.va.us or 757-283-7850, ext. 10318.

NOTE: For assistance with language translation for written materials, please contact Carmen.Garcia@nn.k12.va.us .



Planning Tool

Sponsoring Organization	
Activity Name	
Activity Description	
Intended Audience (ex. school community, division-wide, entire community)	
Proposed Date	
Proposed Location	
Promotion Plan (How will you get the word out about your activity?)	
Materials and Supplies (What materials and supplies will you need for the activity?)	
Anticipated Cost and Funding Plan (How much will the activity cost and how will you get the funds to cover the cost?)	