

New PTSA Committee for Diversity and Inclusion

We are excited to announce that Pope High School's PTSA has a newly formed **Diversity and Inclusion Committee**. As one of the newest committees on Pope's PTSA, we have a lot that we would like to do; however, we believe it is important to start with a clear vision and mission. One that aligns with that of the East Cobb County Council of PTAs and the Georgia PTA. By doing so, we hope to create and promote an awareness, knowledge, and understanding of our diverse community for our students and their families.

What is Diversity & Inclusion?

For many, diversity and inclusion means "valuing differences and similarities in people through actions and accountability" (from the Georgia PTA website). These differences and similarities can include age, ethnicity, language and culture, economic status, educational background, gender, geographic location, marital status, mental ability, national origin, parental status, physical ability, political philosophy, race, religion, sexual orientation, and work experience.

What does Diversity and Inclusion look like at Pope?

There are so many ways Pope embraces Diversity and Inclusion, that we couldn't possibly list them all here. Some of the more recent efforts include:

- **Rachel's Challenge** with the mission to "... inspire, equip, and empower every person to create a permanent positive culture change in their school, business, and community by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion."
- **Shop With a Greyhound (SWAG)** is a Pope community service outreach project that partners with students, parents, local groups, businesses, and Partners in Education to generate good will in the community and provide the less fortunate with a much needed special day during the holiday season.
- **The Special Education Class** hosts a dinner for the students of Powers Ferry Elementary, which helps our students give back to the community, while helping them learn and practice life skills.

This Committee would like to capture and acknowledge more of these endeavors on an ongoing basis and share them through our soon to be released link on the Pope PTSA website.

What's Next?

Since this Committee is in it's infancy, we will start by building our foundation (Vision, Mission, Goals, etc.). Part of this start-up phase includes the creation of a link on the Pope PTSA website where this and other information and resources will be housed specific to Diversity and Inclusion. Check it out periodically to see how the site is progressing.

What does this mean for me?

We would love to hear your ideas and suggestions, and give you an opportunity to be involved. We have some great ideas already, such as an International/Heritage Day and Speaker Series. If you are looking for a way to get involved with the PTSA, this could be it!

If you have questions about the **Diversity and Inclusion Committee**, please contact Charlene Noble at popeds@gmail.com