

When I was told that “DEI” was the theme for this year’s Panacea Challenge, I had brainstormed a lot of different topics and projects that I could have done. After going around and talking to some of my friends and family, I realized that racial discrimination is a big problem that occurs in schools and workplaces. The cause of this is mostly because of the knowledge gap between Americans and others races.

In schools, Asian Americans, African Americans, students practicing Islam, and students of other minority groups are often discriminated against due to differences in culture and ethnicity according to the US Justice and Education Department. In the fall of 2018, of the 50.7 million students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools, 23.8 million were White, 13.8 million were Hispanic, 7.7 million were Black, 2.7 million were Asian, 2.1 million were of Two or more races, 0.5 million were American Indian/Alaska Native, and 186,000 were Pacific Islander. Minority students often have to face racial/ethnic bullying. Racial/ethnic bullying can be defined as targeting a student because of the color of their skin, the way they talk, their ethnic grouping, or their religious or cultural practices. Examples of microaggressions include negative comments about a student’s hijab, eye shape, hair texture, and word pronunciation. These can all affect a student’s personality and the way they act. As for the student that isn’t educated on different cultures and ethnicities, we will able to provide them with a stable foundation for their knowledge, so they can empathize with their fellow students.

As students of minority groups are often discriminated against due to differences in their culture and ethnicity. To prevent this, I want to bring awareness and educate fellow students

about international holidays and historic events, as they are at a good age to learn about different cultures and how everyone is connected. Usually, when students are younger, they are taught manners and rules, which they can carry through within their life. With this same concept, we can teach students about cultural differences as many students aren't able to travel abroad, it's difficult for them to observe the lives of people who are different from them. This had made wondering, how can we provide these students with an education about students of the minority. Hence, bringing me to my idea of an Educational Epcot day.

Educational Epcot day will provide students of all races with a guidebook of recent historic global issues. It will provide the young students with a strong foundation of different cultures and provide them with the knowledge to help understand their peers. It will also cover an abundance of different holidays that take place in a person's religion and/or culture. Some holidays Juneteeth, Rosh Hoshana, Kwanza, and many others. As shown in our visuals, there will be two sets of rooms. Room 1 will share a timeline of recent international events. Many children don't understand what's going around the world as most social studies units in school surrounding topics that occurred in the 1800s and 1900s, not necessarily recent events. Thus, on educational Epcot day, we would like to inform children of recent events heavily highlighted in the news. Events include the Israel Palestine conflict, Kashmir, Myanmar, and more. This day will help students empathize with people of all cultures. In-room 1, students will pass by each poster and will be informed of the history that had occurred during that time. This will either be done by a professional or one of their peers. The title of this section is "A walk through news headlines." The students will be provided with the history of cultures, causes of famous wars, and regional challenges which have occurred. Recently, many students have not been watching the news and have not kept up with what is happening in the world. This section will provide

them with a lot of general knowledge and can clear up any confusion occurring. Next up, we have “Holiday Hallway.” This section educates students on different holidays that take place during the year and why they are celebrated. As the student walks down the hallway, they will learn more about each culture individually, which will cause them to understand their peers. They will understand why they have certain days off at school and will start to appreciate the cultures and reasons for the day off. Some holidays include Hanukkah, Kwanza, Diwali, Juneteenth, and many others.

With Educational Epcot day in action, I hope to not only bring awareness to others but also spread the message that you shouldn't take part in racial discrimination. Diversity in our community is something we are blessed to have, and not something to take for granted. We can learn about others and their cultures, and in the process, become closer as a community.