

# Affinity Mentorship Course

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"Upholding and celebrating diversity by building powerful connections and conversations."

# The Underlying Invisible Problem

- The structural systems
   within Piedmont often
   suppress the identity of
   marginalized populations.
- Students have few outlets within school to form common cultural bonds.
- Many suffer in silence without an outlet to share their experiences.

Lack of representative role models in places of authority

Years of cumulative hurt by a system that is built around whiteness

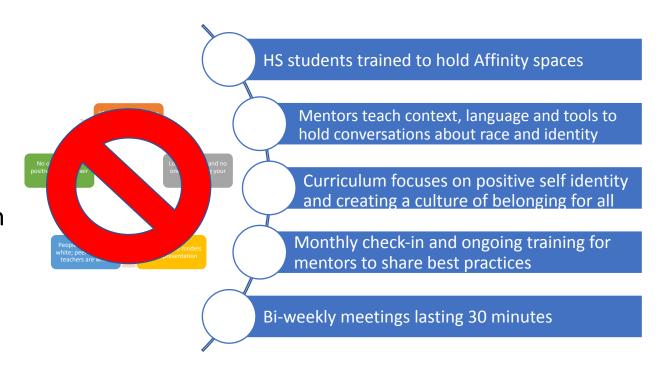
Children notice and talk about race regardless of whether adults initiate conversation

BIPOC students internalize lack of conversion about race and identity When we don't acknowledge differences, we are centering whiteness



## What the Affinity and Identity Mentor Program Offers

The Piedmont Affinity and Mentor Program creates a structure allowing elementary and middle school students to build positive identity by connecting High School mentors with similar identity markers.





# District Support for BIPOC Students

Formalize and insitutionalize the Affinity and Identity Mentor Program to ensure BIPOC students have role models who share their identity to talk with and share experiences.

Identify funds to be designated long-term to pay for the program to be led by a District employee who is compensated for their role.

Commit to hiring more teachers and staff of color to ensure representation of BIPOC educators so more students of color will have stronger connections to their teachers.







AAA and BSU jointly collaborated with Jean Chen Takazawa and Ina Bendich to launch Affinity Mentoring, Sept 2020

January 2020 Havens Assembly on Lunar New Year





#### **About the Course**

- PUSD course and will have no impact on MHS/PHS FTE allocation
- Yearlong elective course with students earning 10 elective credits per year
- ☐ Maximum credit to be earned: 20 credits (2 years)
- Delivered during "8th period" to not impact course participation within the day
- ☐ For 2022-23 school year, students who do not register for the course can participate as mentors if they meet the requirements (TBD by course instructor in consultation with Director of DEI)







### **Affinity Mentoring Sessions Meeting Year-long**







# **Unit Types**

- Child Development and Lesson Planning
- Effective Communication
- Restorative Justice and Circle Keeping

- Identity Development
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Social Justice





# Flipped Classroom and Project Based Learning

#### Flipped Classroom

- Uses video to deliver content usually with an associated lesson or workbook.
- The mentors will receive the videos for the lessons for the week and be assigned videos and workbook assignments, lessons to design, and other tasks.
- Video content is required to be viewed prior to class; time in class is to apply the learning with direct instruction.
- Class also will be used as an opportunity to expose mentors to a variety of experts in the field to help them gain new knowledge about the potential subjects listed.

#### **Project Based Learning**

- Solve real world problems that their mentee needs help addressing
- Leaders are scaffolding instruction and managing the activities
- Building a culture of independence and interdependence of the high school mentors to actively engage with each other as they design group mentorship activities
- Instructor can easily assess the learning of the mentors as they demonstrate their learning in providing small group instruction.



## **Questions**



