



The Whittier Word

J.G. Whittier "STEM" Education Campus

Whittier Vision Statement

To prepare all Whittier students to become life-long, innovative, learners and productive competitors in the ever-changing 21st century.

Principal's Message

Greetings Whittier Families!

As you may know, February is Black History Month. Please take the time to reflect with your children about the contributions African-Americans have made to our lives.

February has proven to be a busy month thus far. Your children have been celebrating reading, creating projects, attending peer mediation meetings, and taking various assessments to evaluate their learning. We will continue our goal to develop every child as we assist them to maximize their potential to make a positive impact on the world.

Report cards went home on February 4th. Make sure to acknowledge the strengths of your children and assist them in their

areas of need. The Whittier staff is committed to working collaboratively with parents and the community to help every child be successful in all aspects of their lives. Therefore, we welcome your insights and input to help your children be successful and productive citizens. Each month we have our Parent/Principal Book Club and Breakfast with the Principal meetings. Please try to attend at least one of these meetings each month so that we can share information and develop ways to ensure your child receives a meaningful education while at Whittier. I look forward to working with parents and the community to ensure the success of our children.

Yours In Education,

Nicole Clifton, Ed.D.

Principal



"The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another."
~ Marva Collins

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Special points of interest:

- www.k12.dc.us
- www.whittierdc.net
- www.facebook.com/WhittierEC
- Main office contact line: (202) 576-6156

Whittier Mission Statement

The mission of J.G. Whittier Education Campus is to provide an interactive, hands-on approach to inquiry and project based learning focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Peer Mediation at Whittier EC

Research has shown that when students understand and consistently use conflict resolution skills, schools benefit in the following ways:

- Students apply skills

to critical thinking and problem solving

- School violence, vandalism, and suspensions are reduced
- School Climate is improved and more learning takes place

- Students take responsibility for resolving some of the school conflicts which frees adults to spend more time on academics and less on discipline



A Word from our Dean Ms. Pritchard on Bullying

The Bully

Bullying is about the abuse of power. Children who bully abuse their power to hurt others, deliberately and repeatedly. They are often hot-tempered, inflexible, overly confident, and don't like to follow rules. They often lack empathy and may even enjoy inflicting pain on others. They often desire to dominate and control others, perceive hostile intent where none exists, overreact aggressively to ambiguous situations, and hold beliefs that support violence.

In preschool years, bullies often rely on direct verbal bullying and physical power to control material objects or territory. They may lack the skills to interact in more socially appropriate ways.

In the elementary school years, bullies are more likely to use threats and physical force, combined with direct verbal bullying, to make victims do things against their will. At this age, some children begin to use indirect bullying to exclude peers from their social circle.

In middle and high school years, bullies rely on direct verbal bullying such as name-calling and making threatening remarks, as well as physical bullying such as pushing and hitting. Although both boys and girls engage in physical bullying, girls are more likely to participate in indirect, relational bullying, such as rumor-spreading and social exclusion. They often use the Internet or cell phones to send these hurtful messages. While boys tend to rely on bullying

to enhance their physical dominance, girls tend to use it to enhance their social status.

Sometimes children bully in groups. Children may join in because they look up to the bully and want to impress him or her, or because they are afraid and do not want to be attacked themselves.



Parent Power!

There are many ways you can support your child's learning and school. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your student brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.
- Tell your child's teachers if you can help them out at school or home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank-you note or an e-mail.

- Contact your student's teacher immediately if you can see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly



"All great achievements require time."

- Maya Angelou

Uniform Reminder/STEM Night Thank You/Upcoming Events

Uniform Reminder

Parents and students, please remember that Whittier is a uniform school. Students are expected to wear their uniform every day, Monday-Friday.

STEM Night Thank You

We would like to thank all the parents who came out to support us on Thursday, February 3rd, for STEM night!

February

17th—Parent Principal Book Club
 18th—Professional Development Day—No school for students
 21st—President's Day—School Closed for students and staff
 24th—Ski Trip
 25th—Parent/Principal Breakfast
 28th—Parent Conference Day—No School for students



"The beautiful thing about learning is no one can take it away from you."
 ~ B.B. King