

MEDIATING TO MITIGATE MAYHEM

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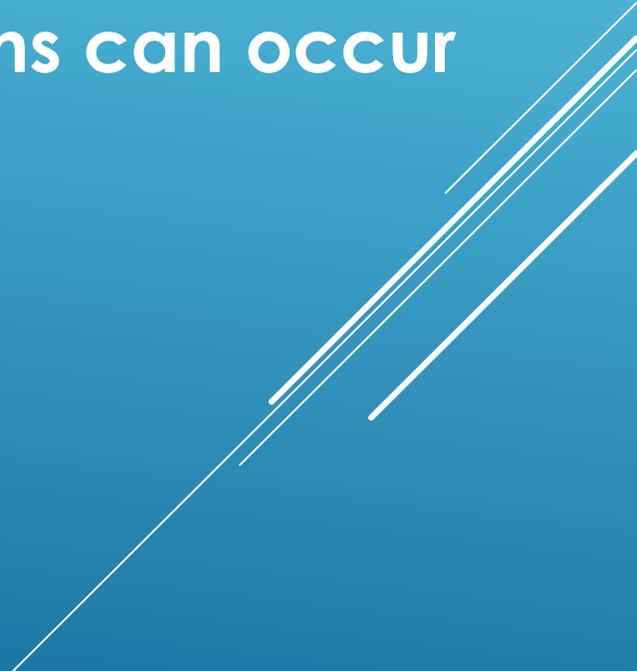
Incidents that have occurred on the high school campus this year:

- A student wears something that is not from their culture, but from another, during spirit week (white student wears a do-rag/durag).
- The “N” word is found scrawled on a sports bench.
- A student photo is passed around with the words “All Natural Caucasian.”
- A student is called “gay” in class.
- Students change into and out of what could be considered by some as politically offensive clothing depending on the class/teacher.
- A student shows a photo during a class presentation where a non-Black person has a filter with an afro and dark skin.

Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey by Sarah Shin

When our wounds are denied or ignored, further brokenness is caused. Try telling a person who was raped or abused that their pain was imagined, asked for, or “not really that bad.”

Depression, suicide, and other emotional problems can occur when such pain isn't validated.

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against a blue gradient background.

Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey by Sarah Shin

As you hear about the scars of others, sometimes you will represent the people who caused that person's wounds. The worst thing to do in that moment is to become defensive and try to excuse yourself or your people--because in doing so, you're actually denying the person's pain. How can you extend shalom in such a space?

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If a racist [*homophobic, sexist, etc.*] incident happens on campus, at work, or in our neighborhoods, the worst thing to do is to pretend like nothing happened. The best thing to do is to show up, be present, hear their pain, and then pray and speak up together.

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Every cross cultural experience with a new person or an old friend [in a classroom] has potential to be a place of dissonance. If you make a mistake or encounter tension and then choose fear, anxiety suspicion, or self-protection, you will end up responding by withdrawing, leveling criticism or accusation, and breaking trust in relationships. Choosing to be a learner means approaching with openness, adaptability, and curiosity. The end results will be deeper understanding and empathy in relationships.





BE THERE

Address the situation. Do not ignore it.
Ignoring it is the equivalent of not caring

“Silence can look like complicity, where you’re saying either it’s okay or it doesn’t matter.”

SHIN, SARAH. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*.
READHOWYOUWANT, 2021.

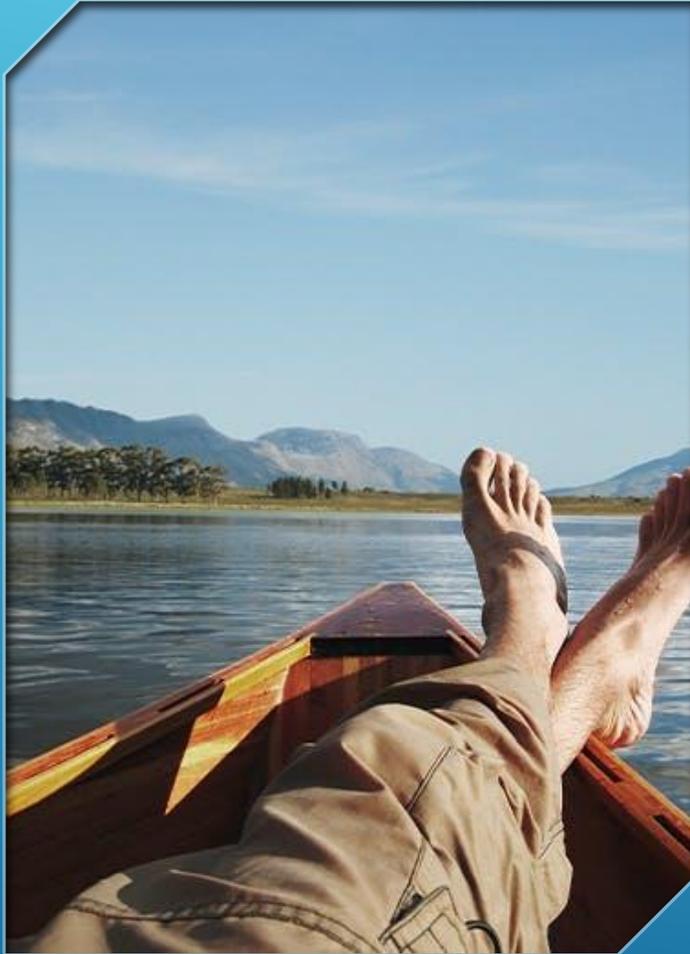


BE AUTHENTIC

Maintain your credibility by being real

“Know and love who you are. The key is not becoming an expert in black culture...I build trust because I know who I am, and my black students respect that authenticity.”

SHIN, SARAH. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*. READHOWYOUWANT, 2021.

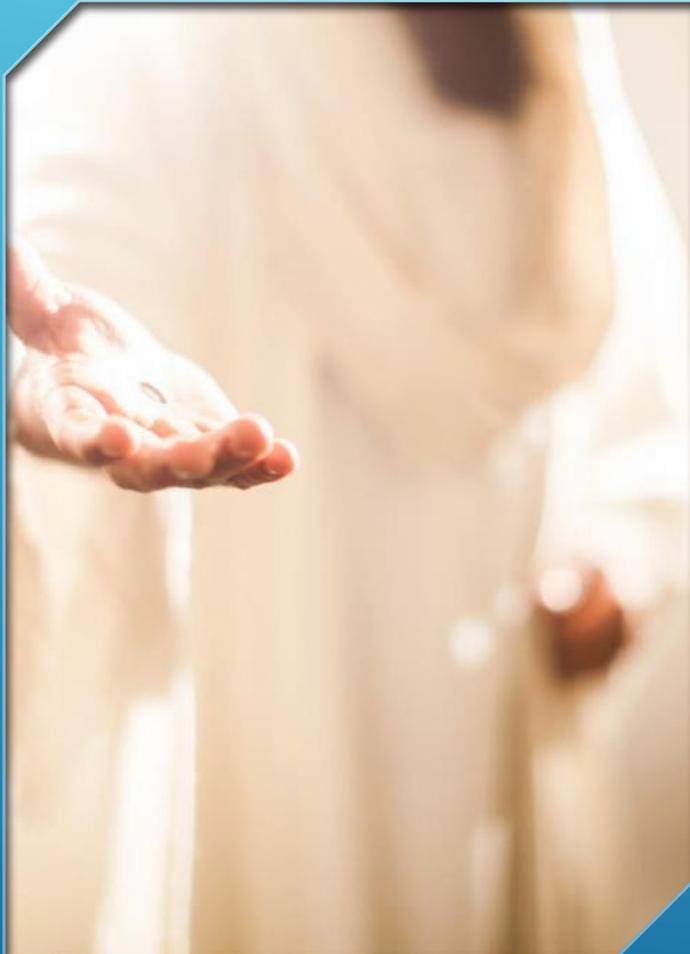


BE CALM, WHICH IS DIFFERENT FROM COMFORTABLE

Show you are not rattled by disagreements

“As Jesus invites us to reach out to diverse people, we have to learn how to interact in ways that build trust, communicate honor, and extend hospitality.”

SHIN, SARAH. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*. READHOWYOUWANT, 2021.



BE LOVING TO ALL

Remind students that God sees all of them as His Beloved

“The most loving thing to do is show up and listen, without judgement”

SHIN, SARAH. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*. READHOWYOUWANT, 2021.



BE BOLD

Take charge and regulate the conversation.

“Fear and anxiety should not limit our mission fields.”

SHIN, SARAH. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*. READHOWYOUWANT, 2021.



BE NEUTRAL. ASK YOURSELF IF THIS IS A TIME TO SHARE YOUR OPINION

Do not always feel the need to give your opinion. Ask questions instead. Build higher level thinking skills.

“We need to ask good questions that communicate our genuine interest in learning more about others’ ethnic backgrounds and cultures.”

SHIN, SARAH. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*. READHOWYOUWANT, 2021.



BE TRUSTWORTHY

Show that your classroom is a safe space for all.

“The solution is not to be colorblind. The solutions is to start by building trust.”

SHIN, SARAH. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*. READHOWYOUWANT, 2021.



BE A TEACHER

Teach listening skills-WAIT (why am I talking?), ownership skills, and information-gathering skills. Ask clarifying questions.

- “Could you tell me more? I’d love to understand better what that experience was like for you.”
- “Forgive my ignorance, but I don’t know what _____ is. Could you explain it a little more so I can learn?”
- “You seem upset. May I ask what is going on for you?”

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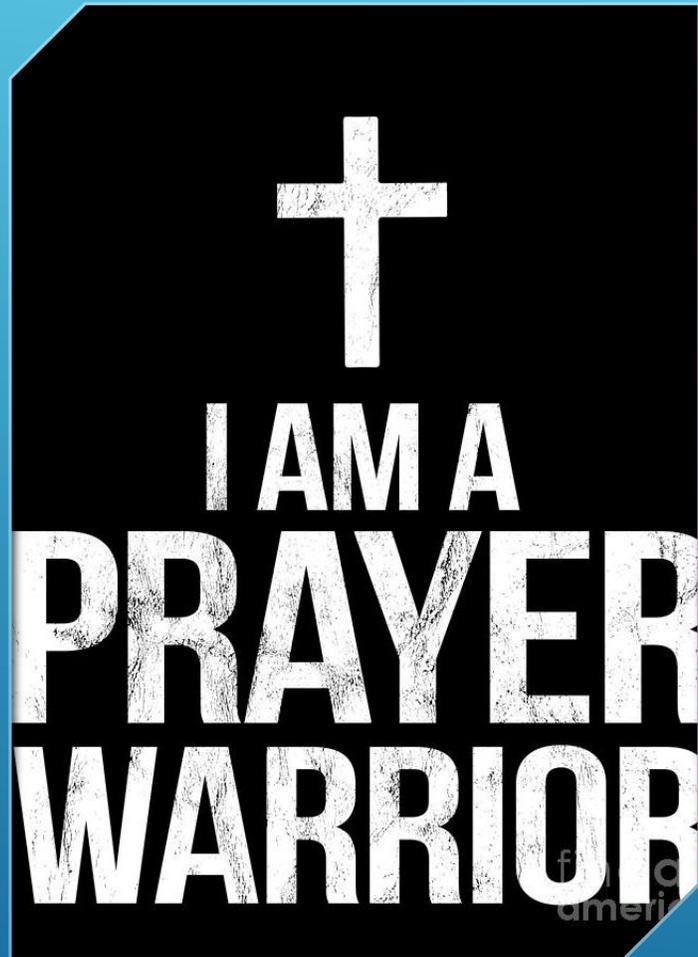


BE OK WITH NO RESOLUTION

Show students they can disagree with each other and still get along.

“We can’t avoid the sadness and pain that our brothers and sisters of different backgrounds face navigating a racially and ethnically broken world...Hospitality is about creating a home where you can be safe, cared for, and loved by your spiritual family without having to pretend like everything is ok.”

SHIN, SARAH. *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey*. READHOWYOUWANT, 2021.



BE A (IN) PRAYER WARRIOR

We pray about things that are important, things that matter. Praying about the situation tells students you care.

Close discussions with prayer. Invite the Lord to give wisdom and understanding to all who are present.

THANK YOU

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