



An Invitation

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I look forward to facilitating The Roeper School Parent SEED seminars for 2013-2014. This will be our fifth year offering our SEED program as a personal and professional development opportunity for our parent community.

SEED, in its simplest form, is a diversity educational program. The National SEED Project (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) takes you on a journey of self- discovery. Our faculty, staff and parents who have participated in this program (165 to date) testify that as a result of their SEED affiliation, they listen to all voices, including their own, with widened attention. Participants handle with more confidence and competence the challenges and joys of the many kinds of diversity found in their own lives, in the lives of others, and in the natural world. There is an “inside-out” approach taken by individuals in the SEED program. It’s reflective in nature, causing each of us to look at our own identities; often illuminating how our own lives have been shaped.

We explore various facets of diversity such as race, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, exceptionalities, ethnicities, class, etc., through activities, conversation and other resources. The activities are structured to provide a framework within which we can openly address these complex issues. Resources include articles, videos, fiction and non-fiction books, poetry, and interactive exercises which increase our abilities to see systemically, in order to recognize and respect plural dimensions of culture and climate that are not customarily studied in school curriculum.

We ask that you make a commitment to come together once a month during the school year for a three-hour seminar. We ask that you come with an open mind and heart in order to learn others’ perspectives and be able to reflect on how each of our individual and collective views has been shaped. All needed materials are provided. Each meeting begins with a sit-down meal. The meals include a variety of ethnic cuisine. This socialization time is also important in developing and creating a community environment. Childcare is provided by our aftercare staff for children three years old and older.

Our goal is to create a safe and comfortable environment that lends itself to deep reflection and understanding of self and others. This purposefully created atmosphere serves as a catalyst for conversation and understanding in a community where diversity is both coveted and assured. We realize that each person will be at different places on our journey at different times. We encourage all to bring the “textbooks of their lives” as part of this process for growth. We hope that each participant will share their stories and experiences. We believe that each person has much to share and to learn.

The schedule for this year is as follows:

SEED meetings are held on Tuesdays

Bloomfield Hills Campus -- Steward Building, Bretzlaff Commons and Dance Room 110

Time: 5:00-8:00pm

October 15, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 22, May 13

Please accept this invitation. Email me that your Yes RSVP to participate in our SEED program.

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