

## Teacher Emails for January 11

### Teacher email for Kutztown Elementary School and Greenwich Elementary School:

This month Kutztown Area School District Equity Team is exploring what identity is. Please help us bring the theme of identity into your classroom. Edutopia offers a great [article](#) on how to create an identity-safe classroom. We will also provide resources that we invite you to incorporate into your classroom. Our first recommendation is as follows:

#### **K-2 Elementary:**

Suggested Reading:

Beaumont, K. illustrated by Caltraw, D. (2004) *I like myself*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

- [Lesson Plan](#)
- [Read Aloud](#)

#### **3-5 Elementary:**

[Me, Myself and I ELA Common Core-Themed Unit from Scholastic](#)

We would love to hear from you, as we are all learning from one another in hopes to make Kutztown Area School District a more equitable, diverse and inclusive learning community. We invite you to [contact us](#) with any feedback you have or resources that you would like to share.

### **Middle School Email to Teachers and Staff:**

This month Kutztown Area School District Equity Team is exploring what identity is. Please help us bring the theme of identity into your classroom. Edutopia offers a great [article](#) on how to create an identity-safe classroom. We will also provide resources that we invite you to incorporate into your classroom. Our recommendation this week is [Facing History and Ourselves identity mapping](#) during advisory. We would love to hear from you, as we are all learning from one another in hopes to make Kutztown Area School District a more equitable, diverse and inclusive learning community. We invite you to [contact us](#) with any feedback you have or resources that you would like to share.

### **High School Email to Teachers and Staff:**

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## **Teacher Emails for Week of January 18**

### **Email for Kutztown Elementary School and Greenwich Elementary School Teachers and Staff:**

The theme of the Kutztown Area School District Equity Team this month is **identity**. The Reading and Writing Project from Teachers College, Columbia University offers [read aloud suggestions on cultural literacy](#) which provide great connections to identity. The Teaching Tolerance article on a [culturally responsive classroom](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic helped reaffirm that we can do this work with our virtual students.

In some of the announcements this month, we ask students to reflect on and respond to a prompt about identity. While there is no requirement for written or drawn responses, we invite you to encourage your students to engage in these reflective activities as your schedule allows.

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## Emails for Week of January 25

### Email for Kutztown Elementary School and Greenwich Elementary School Teachers and Staff:

The theme of the Kutztown Area School District Equity Team this month is **identity**. We recommend a great article from the [Association of School Superintendents by Gary Howard, "As Diversity Grows So Must We."](#) We also wanted to make you aware of [Pennsylvania's Department of Education's Equity Website on Racial and Ethnic Identity](#). There are a lot of resources for you to explore as an individual and for your classroom. We also recommend [Dr. Chris Emdin's](#) book *For White Folks that Teach in the Hood and the Rest of Y'all Too*. In this book, Dr. Emdin provides insights for how we can reflect on and evolve our classroom practices to ensure that they do not send unintended and/or negative messages to our students about their identities. He writes, "Students very quickly receive the message that they can be smart when they are not who they are. This in many ways is classroom colonialism; and it can only be addressed through a very different approach to teaching and learning."

We also wanted to give a shout out to Tom Miller and Kutztown Area High School sophomore Esmerelda Morales. Esmerelda's poem, "The Place I Grew," from Mr. Miller's creative writing class is featured in this week's *Cougar Prints* and announcements. Check it out! If you have student work that showcases themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion, please let us know.

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## Emails for Week of February 1

### Email for Kutztown Elementary School and Greenwich Elementary School Teachers and Staff:

The theme of the Kutztown Area School District Equity Team this month is **identity**. We wanted to share resources that can aid in entering into the conversation about identity with students. This week we are focusing on understanding gender and gender identity. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has [many resources on creating gender inclusive classrooms](#). Here are some starting points we recommend:

- Teaching Tolerance [LGBTQ+ Best Practices Guide](#)
- GLSEN [Ready, Set, Respect Elementary Toolkit](#)
- Human Rights Campaign, Welcoming Schools Project [Lesson Plans To Support LGBTQ Inclusive Elementary Schools With Books](#)

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- Facing History and Ourselves: [Centering Queer History and Students in the Classroom by Eric Marcus](#)
- Facing History and Ourselves: [LGBTQ History and Why It Matters](#)
- GLSEN [ThinkB4YouSpeak Guide and Lesson Plans](#)

We hope that these resources will help you to make Kutztown Area School District a more equitable, diverse and inclusive place. We would love to hear from you, as we are all learning from one another in hopes to make Kutztown Area School District a more equitable, diverse and inclusive learning community. We invite you to [contact us](#) with any feedback you have or resources that you would like to share.



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