This month’s social and emotional learning (SEL) theme is #PEACE. The theme of #PEACE was selected for the month of June to keep us focused on recognizing a feeling of accomplishment and to focus on one definition of #PEACE which is freedom from disturbance and tranquility.

It is a very timely theme this month as the nation faces devastating and tragic loss of young children whose lives were taken within their very classrooms. With #PEACE as our SEL theme this month, the meaning of this word can hopefully provide a reminder of how important it is, no matter the age, to understand what brings us #PEACE.

For educators, as we look back on the past school year and the challenges that we have overcome to get to June, it should be an opportunity to recognize how we contributed to the growth, education, and well-being of our students. These goals were accomplished with minimal or no disturbance and total acceptance by our students.

We can embrace a feeling of #PEACE as we look at our students who are equipped to proceed to the next grade or move into the next phase of their academic career as graduates of WUFSD.

#PEACE reminds us as educators that we are charged at the beginning of every school year to not only fulfill the requirements of our jobs throughout our classrooms, but to also meet our individual goals for reaching our students. With this success, we can release a sigh of relief, and a strong resounding applause for achieving our academic goals.
The theme of #PEACE also brings our SEL theme initiative to a successful close of the 2021-2022 school year. Each month we have been committed to focusing on our monthly themes and creating learning experiences around them.

As we head towards the culmination of our academic year, with our students facing final exams, engaging your students in focusing on #PEACE, can provide them with their focus on remaining calm and motivated towards completion of the semester with success.

At this challenging time, #PEACE is a theme that can spark conversations about what brings us #PEACE, how we can be #PEACEful, and to feel at #PEACE in the safety of the classrooms at WUFSD.

Ways in which the theme #PEACE can be used is to have students engage in discussions and participate in school activities that focus on #PEACE.

#PEACE relates to many of the themes we focused on this school year. If we are trying to achieve #PEACE, then we need to have #PATIENCE and #GRATITUDE for our lives and where we are in our pursuits and journeys. #PEACE also relates to our themes of #HONESTY, #CONFIDENCE, #SELF-DISCIPLINE AND #SELF-AWARENESS which all contribute to accepting and believing in yourself.

SEL themes provides building blocks for classroom teachers, administrators, and parents to have a consistent focus on behavioral and social and emotional health.

FOR OUR PARENTS

For parents, focusing on and discussing the theme #PEACE provides parents with an opportunity to connect engage their child in truthful conversations about what it means to have #PEACE in their lives.

We invite every parent to encourage their children to wear the #PEACE bracelet daily. The bracelets serve as a reminder for our students to be aware of the importance of our monthly SEL themes and be a resource as they go throughout their day.
FOR OUR TEACHERS

TEACHING TOOLS:
We encourage our teachers to be mindful of the five (5) core SEL competencies and to use them as a guideline for implementing our monthly themes.

These are the competencies:

1. Self-awareness — Recognizing emotions and thoughts, understanding how they influence behavior and assessing personal strengths and weaknesses.
3. Social awareness — Understanding the perspective of others, showing empathy for diverse groups of people, and finding support through family, school, and community relationships.
4. Relationship skills — Communicating, cooperating, resisting negative pressure, and offering help. Building and maintaining healthy relationships.
5. Responsible decision-making — Making ethical and respectful choices about personal behavior and relationships and evaluating the consequences of decisions.

#PEACE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1- Gather students in conversation groups to discuss the meaning of #PEACE.
2- Use the theme #PEACE as a prompt for writing and sharing a story about when they had to tell the truth and face the consequences.
3- Relate our past monthly themes to #PEACE.
4- Examine ways in which #PEACE gives students an opportunity to looking at themselves and how it can benefit so many areas of their lives.
5- Compare and contrast #PEACE to being #PEACEful.

**SEL TIPS: #PEACE**

How to achieve #PEACE...

1. Spend Time in nature.
2. Taking short walks in a serene place.
3. Meditate.
5. Take Responsibility for our actions.
6. Love who you are.
7. Practice acceptance.
8. Feel contentment.

The social and emotional learning initiative at WUFSD focuses on one theme each month. This SEL initiative includes the distribution of SEL themed bracelets, posters in each school, posters throughout the community and banners on every school building.

We invite all parents to join our (SEL) social emotional learning initiative by helping your children focus on the (SEL) theme #PEACE.

Why is peace important?
**Peace builds, strengthens, and restores**

How do you get peace?

Signed,
Dr. Teresa Taylor Williams, HS-BCP
SEL Consultant