

# Social Justice Photo Essay

---

Erin Ayers

#577 #content

# School Demographics

---

- K-5 Building: 330 students enrolled
- 53% Male, 47% Female
- 10% Black or African American, 9% Hispanic, 73% White, 1% Asian, 7% Multiracial
- 2% Homeless
- 2% English Language Learners
- 12% Students with Disabilities
- 48% Economically Disadvantaged.

# Elements

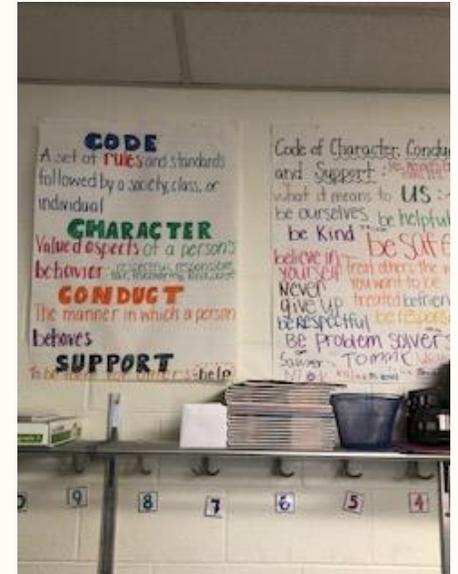
## Identity

During the year, students have several opportunities to share about themselves. We have restorative circles where students can share about their family, lives, and experiences. This is a great way for students to develop positive social identities, cultural identities, interact with unique people, and gives them an opportunity to express themselves and develop positive self-esteem. At third grade, we also spend time learning about different cultures around the world.



## Justice

At the start of every year, we spend time reviewing our code of conduct, character, and support with the students. We have several conversations around fairness, harmful behavior, consequence, etc. At the elementary school I work at, I think this is an area we need to grow and improve. We only address stereotypes, bias, injustice, power, and privilege if the need arises.



# Elements cont.

## Diversity

The diversity standards are built around accepting others differences and have curiosity about others experiences. Additionally, students also build empathy, respect, understanding, and connections to others. This is a picture of the social emotional program that my school uses. The Second Steps program helps to build all of these characteristics in our students.



## Action

This picture fits for action because the bench in the background is a buddy bench that students can sit on when they feel excluded. Also, this is a picture of a peace pole that the fifth graders were responsible for because they wanted to promote peace in our community. These items help students to have empathy, recognize their responsibility to stand up for what is right, make decisions about wrong doing, and evaluate ways to stand up against injustice and bias.



# What is the purpose of having social justice standards?

---

- The purpose of having social justice standards is to create a common language to create schools that are just, equitable, and safe. Teaching about identity, diversity, justice, and action helps to reduce prejudice. Students need knowledge and skills related to decreasing prejudice and taking action when needs aren't equitable. In the article, Struthers stated that it was “considered the most effective means to challenging widespread negative attitudes towards human rights by introducing learners to the relevant values and concepts at an early age.” (p 131).

- Social Justice Standards. (2016) *Teaching Tolerance*.

- Struthers, A. (2016) Human rights: a topic too controversial for mainstream education? *Human Rights Law Review*, 16, 131-162.