

Key Feedback from Kenwood ES Educators:

How will you apply your increased cultural awareness to your work with students and families?

- “I will actively listen to students and their families and encourage them to share stories about their heritage, and ask questions to expand my knowledge about where they are from. I will continue to let my students and their families see that I value their differences... and be cognizant of **incorporating diversity** in my lesson plans and units.”
- “It is not enough to learn about the languages that my students speak so I must also learn about their specific **culture and background** -- where their family came from, what their particular culture is like, and what needs they have.”
- “I will make sure that all students feel loved and welcomed, and the most important part to make them feel not embarrassed of **practicing their culture and religion** at school.”
- “Knowing where my students come from and to help me with my **implicit biases**. It helped me to reflect on my own culture and how others see me as well as how I see others. I will not hesitate to ask my students to educate me more about their cultures and incorporate where they come from.”
- “Trying to offer more **grace** and not having expectations that they should respond like I think they should.”
- “I will strive to extend **empathy and compassion** now that I have a deeper understanding of how our students and families sometimes feel.”
- “I will reach out to our community partners and **utilize their expertise** and experience when partnering with families and students in our building.”

What are your biggest takeaways from this experience?

- “Hands down the best first day back to school of my teaching career. I feel like I am more prepared to make connections and **build relationships** with our families.”
- “Families already have connections to lots of **community partners**. We need to build our partnership as a school with these community partners as a way to make connections with our families.”
- “My biggest takeaway was trying to **put myself in the mindset of the parents** from different cultures and seeing how some things that seem so minor can be confusing or a struggle.”
- “My biggest takeaway from this experience is that I do not know nearly enough about the **cultural backgrounds** of the students that I work with. I need to do more to go into their communities to have a better understanding of who they are and to build trusting relationships with their families.”
- “Being looked at differently or discriminated against, I have so much sympathy for these minority cultures. Being one myself, I just had a **reality check** today it happens with other people also.”
- “The immersion was the best component! That was the first time I have been in a **mosque**. It removed a lot of barriers for me.”