

# **"Empowering Teachers for Inclusive Education: Supporting ELLs' Success and Overcoming Challenges"**

**South Woods Middle School (SWMS)**

Hosted by : Seher Qazi

A teal spiral-bound notebook is the central focus, with a dark teal rectangular box at the top containing the word "Agenda" in white. Below this, a list of five items is presented, each on a white rectangular background. To the right of the notebook is a purple pen with a black clip and a grey eraser. On the left side, there are three spiral binding holes and a grey quarter-circle shape.

# Agenda

- ❖ **Introduce the Problem**
- ❖ **Understand Language Barriers**
- ❖ **Inclusive Community Engagement**
- ❖ **Self Reflection**
- ❖ **Final Thoughts/Questions**

## *Discussion of the Problem:*

### Inadequate Support for Bilingual/ELL Teachers in Addressing Language Barriers

- Challenges faced by bilingual/ELL teachers: inadequate support, limited training opportunities, and scarcity of resources (Lee & Chen, 2019; Rodriguez et al., 2020).
- Limited access to bilingual materials, textbooks, and educational technology tools in languages other than English (Lee & Chen, 2019; Rodriguez et al., 2020).
- Restricted acquisition of instructional materials and resources for ELL students due to limited financial resources (Thompson & Nguyen, 2018).
- Limited access to support networks and collaboration opportunities with colleagues (Cerritos & Rattan, 2018).

#### HOW TEACHING IS CHANGING: 15 CHALLENGES FOR THE MODERN TEACHER

- Personalization
- Data Quantity & Forms
- Classroom Management
- Content
- Content Delivery
- Lesson Planning
- Students
- Privacy
- Invisible Technology



hello!

Shalom!

hola!

salut!

welkom!

namaste!

bienvenidos!

ciao!

## Understand Language Barriers

### - Importance of Understanding Language Barriers

- Research by Martin and Collie (2019) highlights the paramount importance of understanding language barriers for teachers.
- Inadequate support for bilingual/English Language Learner (ELL) educators emphasizes the need for teacher comprehension.
- Comprehending language barriers fosters a supportive and inclusive learning environment for teachers and ELL students.



## Benefits for Teachers in Building Meaningful Connections

- Establishing meaningful connections with ELL students is essential for teachers' professional growth.
- Research shows that teacher-student relationships are crucial in influencing students' academic progress (Martin & Collie, 2019).
- These connections provide valuable insights into students' learning preferences, abilities, and obstacles.



## Impact of Effective Teacher-Student Relationships

- Effective teacher-student relationships significantly impact teachers' instructional effectiveness (Martin & Collie, 2019).
- Understanding ELL students' learning styles, strengths, and challenges enhances teachers' ability to provide personalized guidance and support.
- By addressing language barriers, teachers create an inclusive classroom and improve their own teaching effectiveness, benefiting both ELL students and themselves.



## Addressing Language Barriers

### Self-Reflection & Understanding

**Let's take a moment and think of these two questions :**

"Do you feel fully aware of your ELL students' linguistic challenges and unique learning experiences?"

"Do you feel that bilingual/ELL teachers receive sufficient support in effectively addressing language barriers for their students?"

Use these questions to reflect on your experiences in supporting students and teachers with diverse linguistic backgrounds.



## Activity #1 "Understanding Language Barriers Worksheet"

Objective: This worksheet helps participants, including educators, administrators, and PTA members, gain insight into language barriers their students and teachers may face, fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

[Link to worksheet :](#)

Before we start this worksheet please introduce yourself to the people around you, these will be the people who you will interacting with throughout this seminar. To start I would like you all to pay attention to these these three videos.

[Video 1](#) [Video 2](#) [Video 3](#)

*Awareness, Understanding, Collaboration, Inclusivity, Commitment.*





## Resources and Support for Effective Language Barrier Addressing To Help Encounter Language Barriers in the Classroom

- Resources for Effective Language Barrier Addressing
- Practical Strategies, Research-Based Approaches, and Professional Development
- Empowering and Equipping Educators"
- Creating an Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Learning Environment
- Fostering Success for Every Learner and Teacher
- Use and Keep in Mind: [[Grand List of resources with descriptions](#)]



# Inclusive Community Engagement

## Importance of Collaboration

As we engage in this discussion, let's explore the vital aspects of celebrating diversity and creating a supportive learning environment for all students.

- Collaboration: Working with parents, administrators, and students.
- Empowerment: Students as cultural ambassadors.
- Inclusivity: Promoting inclusive community celebrations.
- Diversity: Embracing diverse cultural heritages.
- Support: Involving school leaders in activities, curriculum, and events for bilingual/ELL students and teachers.





## Promoting Cultural Inclusivity Through Literature and Food

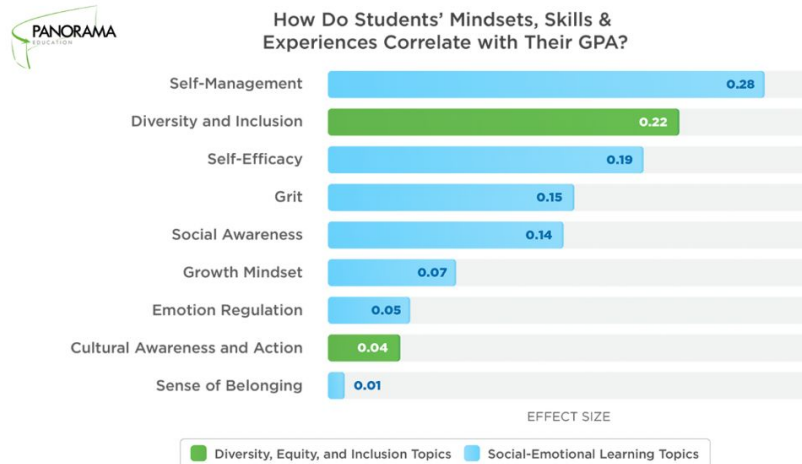
- Collaboration for a Culturally Responsive Curriculum- "Culturally Responsive Lesson Planning" enhances inclusivity and engagement for bilingual/ELL students. (Gay, 2010)
- Curating a diverse collection of multicultural books and resources in the school library validates diverse cultural knowledge (Mandarani & Munir, 2021).
- Collaborative planning for cultural trips and events involves families in decision-making, creating more relevant and impactful experiences for students.
- Active family engagement activities positively impact student outcomes, leading to higher grades, better social skills, and improved behavior (Jacques & Villegas, 2018).
- Collaborative efforts in organizing a "Cultural Potluck and Food Festival" foster cultural exchange and appreciation among students, families, and staff.
- These initiatives support the school's commitment to cultural inclusivity and enhance teachers' cultural knowledge and sensitivity, valuing the cultural experiences of all members of the school community

Your participation is encouraged: An email with a google form will be emailed out

## Data and Research to look at

<https://www.panoramaed.com/blog/top-3-findings-equity-inclusion-schools>

### Finding #1: Students who get better grades also have more positive experiences of diversity and inclusion in school.





## Feedback and Reflection

- Prioritizing participant engagement and reflection through interactive exercises, group discussions, and self-reflection activities (Howard, 2019).
- Creating a safe and inclusive space for open dialogue and valuing diverse perspectives to ensure all participants feel comfortable contributing (Howard, 2019).
- Dedicated time for participants to provide insights, ask questions, and offer feedback on the workshop content and activities, enabling continuous improvement (Howard, 2019).

## Personal Reflection and Collaborative Action Plan

### Activity #2

Conducting a collaborative activity where participants develop an action plan for implementing culturally responsive teaching practices



- Prompting participants to identify three ways to integrate culturally responsive practices into their instructional strategies (Howard, 2019).
- Encouraging educators to recognize the importance of cultural awareness and its positive impact on their teaching.
- Guiding participants in setting specific goals and identifying strategies to create a culturally inclusive learning environment (Howard, 2019).
- Empowering participants to apply newfound knowledge in their daily practice and make meaningful changes in their instructional strategies.

[Example of Action Plan](#)



## Research Support and Equipping Educators

- Research by Gomez et al. (2022) reinforces the positive impact of culturally responsive teaching on student engagement and academic achievement, aligning with the workshop's focus on integrating culturally responsive practices into educational settings.
- The workshop incorporates collaboration, participant engagement, reflection, and actionable plans, equipping educators with the tools and mindset to embrace culturally responsive teaching practices.
- As a result, educators are better prepared to create more inclusive and effective educational experiences for their students.



## Final Thoughts

- Bridging the Gap for ELL Students: Creating Supportive Environments
- Celebrating Diversity, Fostering Success: Embracing Inclusivity Together
- Collaborative Efforts for Lasting Impact: Empowering Our Educational Community
- Our Journey to a Supportive Learning Environment: Embracing Diversity, Empowering Students
- Closing Remarks: Empowering Educators, Empowering Students: Building Inclusive Learning Spaces
- Building an Inclusive School Culture: Our Collective Responsibility for ELL Success

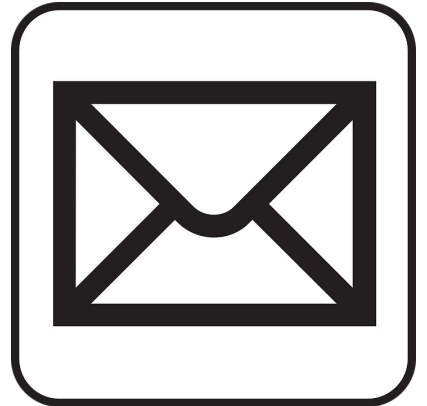
If you have any questions please ask or email me at [seherqazi1@gmail.com](mailto:seherqazi1@gmail.com)





## Thank You

If you have any questions or insights, please don't hesitate to reach out at [seherqazi1@gmail.com](mailto:seherqazi1@gmail.com). Your dedication will undoubtedly make a significant impact on the lives of our students.





## Reference

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