Oak Park Elementary School District 97

Institute Day Welcome

August 2022
Why I’m excited to be here with you
We are in a community with equity history.

Oak Park is known for explicitly naming racial equity values and taking institutionalized action to reflect them.

Actions reflect beliefs.
We have big vision partners.

The Village of Oak Park

“Climate change affects us all, but it does not affect us all equally. Environmental justice is only possible if income, race, ethnicity, and place of residence does not determine the burden people face from climate change. The vulnerability assessment identifies climate hazards and vulnerable populations in the Village to identify where the greatest need for support exists.”

Park District of Oak Park

“We strive for excellence in serving the well-being and recreation needs of our diverse community through a collaborative, innovative, and sustainable approach.”

Oak Park Public Library

“Choosing to be anti-racist touches everything we do. It’s also why we have an anti-racism strategic plan.”

Oak Park Township

The Community Mental Health Board shall provide leadership to develop a comprehensive array of community based services, which are cost-effective, systematically evaluated, and responsive to evolving community needs.

District 200

Oak Park and River Forest High School will become an ever-improving model of equity and excellence that will enable all students to achieve their full potential.
January, 2012: “Ushma Shah invoked universal design in her debut before School District U46 Board of Education...It's also the idea behind Shah's controversial position..."
Quick Launch
SY22–23 District Priority Work Streams
SY22–23 District 97 Priority Work Streams

Be curious.
Co-create our District 97 culture

Be safe and healthy.
Collaborate for safe and supportive schools

Be a learning designer.
Innovate for student-owned learning
Be Curious.

What we need to ask ourselves...

What is our culture, what do we want it to be & how might we co-create to bridge the gap?

How might we commit to being a radically inclusive and participatory school district?

The kinds of things we need to do as a district team...

- Develop shared agreements & protocols
- Connect with each other; learn to debate with integrity
- Center the most impacted communities
- Create smart two-way engagement
Collaboration with key Oak Park agency partners to leverage expertise and efficiency for optimum service to the community.
Every early learning student in love with literacy and able to read/write/speak/listen at grade level by 3rd grade.

Every 3rd-5th grade student with their own ELA and math standards learning map (planned backwards from 6th grade standards)

Every 6th-8th grade student with their own standards learning map (planned backwards from 9th grade standards)

We already know a lot about how to create dynamic core instruction that motivates student ownership. Let’s take it off the page!

- Collective Teacher Efficacy (Effect size: 1.57!)
- Danielson Framework for Teaching (FFT)
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

We have the entrepreneurial vision to create new & innovative family and community partnerships that extend standards mastery learning.
What matters right now.

Affirm
...each other.

Prioritize
...our students’ access to us.

Model
...a participatory approach.

Practice
...high-fidelity use of our resources.
Great public schools are the engines of a vibrant participatory democracy.

That starts with you. Motivators, believers, innovators & educators!

Renita Banks, Teacher, Beye Elementary School
Here's to the opportunity for us to serve together in District 97!

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