



WELL-BEING
COMMUNITY

DIVERSITY IN ACTION

Students engage community leaders and local schools through Diversity Conference

Cultivating a climate of personal integrity and well-being that engenders socially conscious thinking and respectful relationships doesn't stop with faculty. It's crucial our students embody this mission and encourage their classmates, peers and ultimately their generation to participate in a more inclusive culture. So when Taylor Dews '18, Cecilia Innis '18 and Haley Bartel '18 coordinated, organized and produced Norfolk Collegiate's Diversity Conference for their senior project, they were also executing our school's strategic plan.

The conference followed the theme "The Human Family" inspired by the famous poem by Maya Angelou. Students successfully promoted the meaningful conversations that explored the responsibilities humans have to their worldwide family within the scope of their diverse backgrounds.

Schools in Hampton Roads were invited to send students to the event to broaden their knowledge of inclusivity, and the conference saw students from Norfolk Christian, Green Run High School, Cape Henry and Norfolk Academy.

At the beginning of the day, attendees signed up for breakout sessions lead by a cast of experts, including Local YOUth Advisor and Transgender Activist Zain Welsh; Journalist, Muslim and Author Lisa Suhay; Ph.D. Student and Education Policy Activist Evandra Catherine; Collegiate's Coordinator for Technology Integration and Experiential Learning Ashley King; and Upper School English Teacher Evan Benedict '04.

The highlight of the event was an interactive talk and



Phoenix Camacho '18 signs up for break-out sessions while classmates Kenneth Hargrove '18 and Parker Banks '18 contemplate their options.

presentation from local "people connector" and keynote speaker Kimberly Wimbish. Mother, entrepreneur, businesswoman and full-time student at Norfolk State University, Wimbish uses her marketing skills and innovative approach to do the back-end work for many nonprofit organizations, small businesses, college universities, celebrity clients, sports management and political campaigns as well as corporate industry branding and community service.

"[We'd] been working on this conference for 11 months, and having it finally come to life [was] so exciting," said Haley.

"The most important message I left with is all of us have room to gain more knowledge and understanding of others," said Cecilia.

"There are so many different facets of diversity. We sometimes don't think about that being essential to our acceptance of those unlike us. I think it's also important to understand this learning process is ever-changing; we can never stop becoming more aware, compassionate and driven when it comes to exploring diversity."

“...We have relocated many times. I understand the challenges military families face as they prepare for an upcoming move. One of the first things parents think is, ‘Where is my child going to go to school?’ Collegiate is a great place for military families. Parents are confident their children will be well prepared no matter where the military sends them next.”

ALEX SNYDER '91

LOWER SCHOOL ASSOCIATE ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR, CURRENT PARENT AND MILITARY SPOUSE (RET.)

Counselor Jan Weintraub speaks to lower school students about military families during Military Appreciation Month.



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

Collegiate makes strides to be socially conscious and build military relationships

Did you know the active duty military community makes up well under one percent of the United States’ population? Of course in Hampton Roads, that number is drastically higher. Aside from doing their best to keep us safe at home and abroad, their presence uplifts the local economy. Every year, well over 10,000 military personnel move to the private sector, bringing focus, dedication and hard work to our civilian industries. They add numerous resources and security to the area, and we’re making an effort to contribute a few of our own.

Located just six miles from Norfolk Naval Base—the world’s largest naval base—we understand the importance the naval community brings to our community and families. Military families are more likely to move frequently, and their children

sometimes have to say goodbye to at least one parent for months at a time. It’s a strong, vibrant community, and our strategic plan aims to incorporate resources and tools to wrap our arms around them when they need us most.

When asked what it’s like growing up in a military family, seventh-grader Lila Rosen ’23 says, “It’s just normal.” She, her twin sister Addie ’23 and youngest sister Millie ’27 have moved eight times in their young lives, and to them, it’s just something their family does. Their father, Brad, is a captain in the Navy, and his job has taken them all over the country with this being their first year in Norfolk.

“Collegiate has been super welcoming,” Addie said. “When we met with the admissions team and got a tour of the school, we could tell they were interested in us and our lives. We knew it was going to be a great place to be.”

Collegiate is fortunate to have a built-in, welcoming air to our community, but we’ve been very intentional with

our strategic initiatives to uplift children of military families.

We were thrilled to celebrate the Month of the Military Child in April when we had an assembly educating our lower school students about the military lifestyle and highlighting those families in our community. We also have a 12-month, full-day pre-kindergarten program that includes before and after care and on-site extracurriculars, summer camps and bus services.

As active members of the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), we are constantly learning how to better serve those who serve our country. Our school counselors are always available to offer support during work-ups, deployments and every moment in between. Our website also provides resources tailored to military families to assist in endeavors outside our walls like childcare, adult education, youth development and connectedness throughout deployments.

We value leadership and strength of character at Collegiate, the kind of values found in many military children. As valuable assets in our school, we want to continue to support a community that does so much for us.

¡VÁMONOS A PUERTO RICO!

Spanish Week takes lower school students on a cultural excursion

Every year, lower school students spend a week immersed in a different Spanish speaking country. This year, students learned about the land, culture and people of beautiful Puerto Rico.

All week, students presented in Spanish on Collegiate's lower school news channel, WNCS, with the help of upper school Spanish students Skylar Tessler '20, Annabeth Cary '20, Tabitha Thornton '20. Students in Pre-K, kindergarten, second and fifth grade were featured singing and reciting Spanish poetry.

Students enjoyed an authentic, Puerto Rican lunch during the week and loved the festive hallways covered in Spanish labels and artwork.

Students celebrated Spanish Week on the heels of Hurricane María, which devastated the island nation. By the end of the week, students raised more than \$350 for the Hispanic Federation's Unidos program for disaster relief.

"This year, Spanish Week was a wonderful opportunity for students to use their five senses to learn all about Puerto Rico," Sara Hahne, lower school Spanish teacher said. "Authentic music and Spanish communication could be heard throughout the lower school. We are very excited to uncover a new location next year!"

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPANISH WEEK?

Spanish Week provides students a chance to learn about a culture outside their own, developing empathetic, service-oriented thinking that will serve them at Collegiate and beyond.