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Know Your Classmates - <http://www.knowyourclassmates.org>

About Know Your Classmates

The idea to create a curriculum entitled Know Your Classmates grew from the national ING-led Know Your Neighbor: Multifaith Encounters project, which was launched at the White House a few years ago. Know Your Classmates is an exciting back-to-school initiative brought to you by Beyond Differences -- and free of charge -- for any school across the country to use.

There is too much hateful language, anxiety, and fear of differences among students. All children in your school community are affected: those with learning differences, undocumented, English-language learners, LGBTQ, and special needs to name just a few.

Know Your Classmates is designed to support you and your students, primarily middle schoolers, as they explore issues of self-identity, stereotypes and embracing differences among one another.

With conviction and passion, Beyond Differences believes fears are being recklessly stirred up in the United States among children, in particular, children of multi-faith and multi-ethnic backgrounds.

Our students deserve to acquire the tools they need to combat this fear. They deserve to live in a country that respects their identity, and students should not have to be terrified that they are different or feel as though they somehow do not belong to the United States.

We know you are the teacher who gets it: lesson plans, one national awareness day, and a million ways for children to joyfully open up and get to know one another.

Bring Know Your Classmates to your school this year. We're so thrilled that over 700 schools participated in Know Your Classmates Day in 2016! We encourage you to plan and host your own Know Your Classmates activity day. Sign-up for Know Your Classmates Day 2017 happening on October 20, 2017!

Know Your Classmates Lesson Plans:

- LESSON 1: Exploring Self Identity
- LESSON 2: Do I Belong? Healthy Communication
- LESSON 3: Recognizing Stereotypes and Embracing Differences
- LESSON 4: Living in the United States
- LESSON 5: Human Connection - Empathy and Compassion
- LESSON 6: Diverse Expression of Gender
- LESSON 7: Diverse Expression of Culture
- LESSON 8: Diverse Expression of Love

Know Your Classmates Student Leadership Unit:

- STUDENT LEADERSHIP LESSON 9: Plan and Prepare Know Your Classmates Day
- STUDENT LEADERSHIP LESSON 10: Lead Know Your Classmates Day
- STUDENT LEADERSHIP LESSON 11: Continue the Conversation

About Beyond Differences

Beyond Differences was founded by the parents of Lili Smith who was born with a cranial facial syndrome and was socially isolated during her middle school years. After Lili died at the age of 15 due to medical complications from her syndrome, a group of teens from the local community banded together to bring change to their local schools. They had not realized that they had been leaving Lili out from all the fun social get-togethers. But upon hearing about Lili's feelings of being left out, they were determined to never let anyone feel that way again!

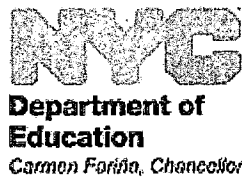
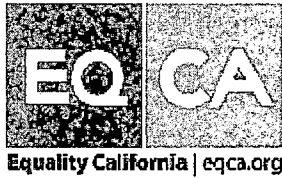
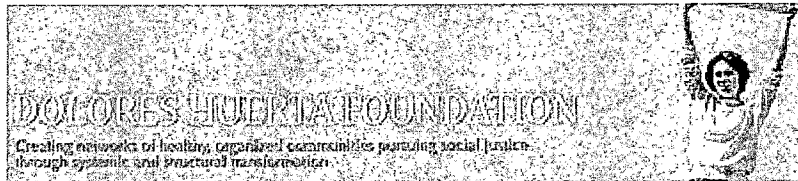
Beyond Difference's core principle is to inspire and empower students to end social isolation in middle school through online and campus programs. We work directly with students -- with the support of their teachers and administrators --

because they are the real activists who can ensure acceptance and inclusion of one another. We are passionately focused on supporting youth in this process of making their middle schools more socially inclusive and less socially isolating.

National Partners



Changing Perspectives



canal alliance



educating for cultural literacy and mutual respect



inspirED

Beyond Differences!
18,654 likes

Know Your Classmates
Oct 20, 2016 Like Page

call it Out
April 27, 2016 Up

Be the first of your friends to like this



Beyond Differences

5 hours ago

A little Friday fun for #BackToSchool week!

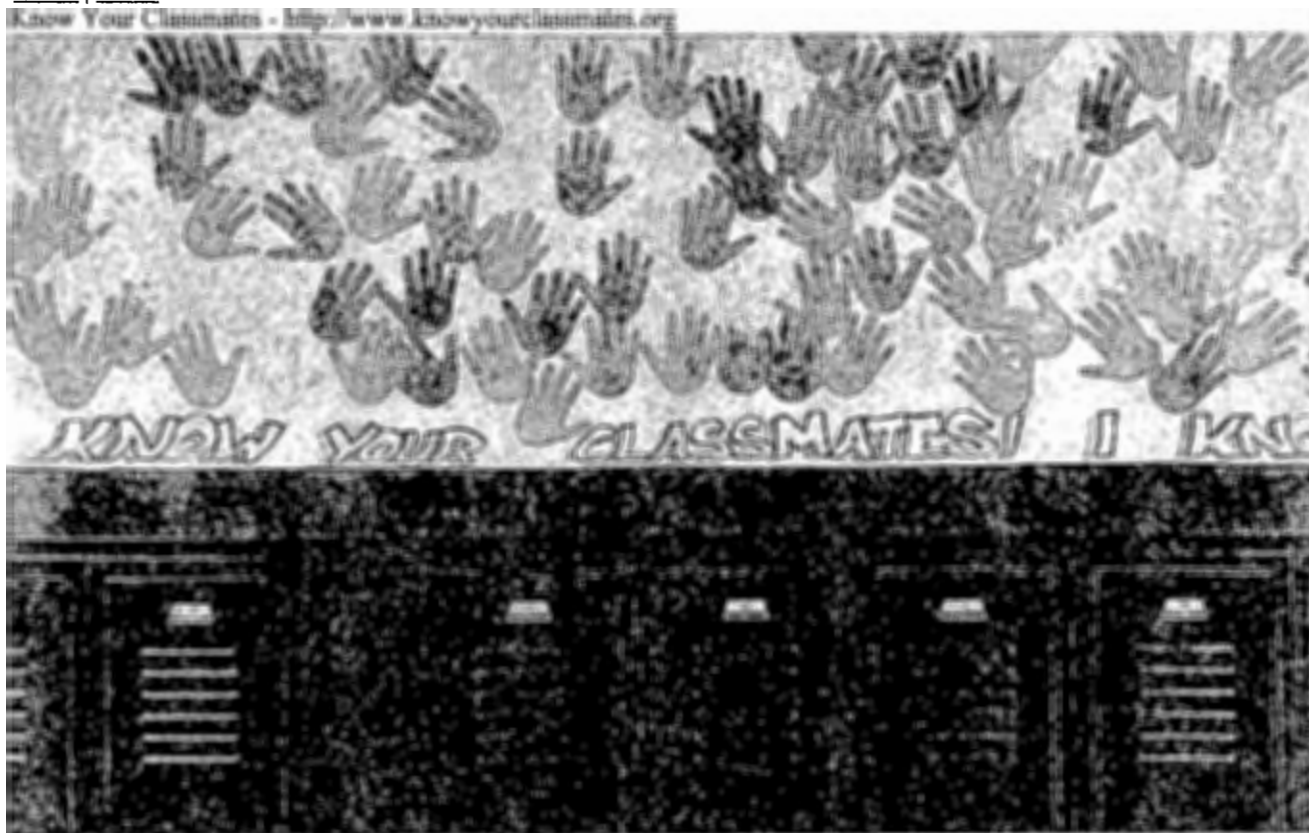
And, be sure to check out
#KnowYourClassmates!

In case you missed the eclipse



Latest Updates

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Know Your Classmates is a curriculum, a campaign and a national awareness day designed to create and nurture healthy and open relationships between classmates, particularly focused on middle school students, from the moment school starts this fall.

Know Your Classmates (KYC) is an initiative of Beyond Differences' aimed at combatting hateful language, anxiety, and fear of differences among middle school students. All children in our school communities are affected.

We're so thrilled that over 700 schools participated in Know Your Classmates Day in 2016! We encourage you to plan and host your own Know Your Classmates activity day. We are now accepting Early Bird Sign-Ups for Know Your Classmates Day 2017 happening on October 20, 2017!

Sign up your school and join the campaign to help students embrace their differences here >>>

2017 National Outreach Partners

- California School Employees Association (CSEA)
- Dolores Huerta Foundation
- Equality California
- NYC Department of Education
- Sit With Us app
- The Representation Project
- ING

Click [here](#) to view all partners.



Please sign me up for Know Your Classmates 2017!

NAME *

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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First

Last

EMAIL *

PHONE *

<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>
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MAILING ADDRESS *

CITY *

STATE *

ZIP CODE *

ADDRESS TYPE *

- School Address
- Home Address

SCHOOL NAME

TITLE 1 SCHOOL? *

- Yes
- No

STUDENT MIDDLE SCHOOL POPULATION (APPROX.)

PLEASE CHECK ANY THAT APPLY:

- I'm a student.
- I'm a parent of a student in school.
- I'm a school teacher, administrator or employee.
- I'm interested in being my school's advisor for a Beyond Differences Club.