



# ***CHill With Diversity* Executive Summary**

To: John Phillips, Principal

## **The Project**

*CHill With Diversity* is designed to help Clover Hill students enhance their literacy and critical thinking skills by reading and discussing books selected from various diverse themes each quarter in order to become more empathetic and inclusive global citizens. Furthermore, the program brings in adult guest speakers to share their real life experiences and allow students to further understand the themes and topics of their books and enhance their connections with each other and those in the community.

## **Objectives**

1. Introduce students to new genres and ideas through books
2. Increase literacy by finding new and interesting books that will reach more students
3. Create empathetic and inclusive individuals through expansive reading and small group discussions
4. Develop critical thinking skills through readings, discussions, and guest speakers
5. Guide students to understand the experiences of individuals in the community and building connections between each other and the global community
6. Help establish a love for reading and a plant a seed to encourage students to seek out new topics and issues to read about

## **The Space**

In order to accommodate small group discussions as well as larger group guest speaker events for CHill with Diversity, the library space has been slightly redesigned. First, we added castor wheels to the 10 tables and 60 chairs in the larger spaces of the library. This has allowed for ease in moving furniture and quickly changing the space to accommodate students. In addition, after removing several computer stations, we converted the space to a reading corner with cozy chairs and a table, encouraging students to spend time in the library in a more casual way. Both of these changes have proven beneficial for the students using the space, as they have produced more efficiency and flexibility in movement.

## **The Budget**

CHill with Diversity had an initial cost of \$8,659 to cover collection additions, supplies, staffing, and services. The Snapdragon Book Foundation has granted us \$2456 to cover the cost of adding books to the library; we will continue to conduct fundraising for around \$2000; and we will use part of the library's budget for the remaining portion. To maintain the program, the cost will be \$3,674 each year.

The cost of the redesign was \$5,954.15, and this provided 40 caster wheels for the 10 tables, 240 caster wheels for 60 chairs, 4 new cozy chairs and a table to create a reading corner.

### **Cost Benefit Analysis**

In the first year of the program approximately 120 students participated in all four quarters, with 120 additional students participating in 1, 2, or 3 quarters. The circulation of the new 155 books (print, digital, and audio) resulted in an average of 12 checkouts per book, demonstrating a value of over \$45,000 in just new materials. In addition, the benefit of book clubs and guest speakers furthered the value of the collection, inspiring students to read more, increasing their literacy as well as critical thinking skills, as part of our mission. Students gave very positive feedback and look forward to continuing to participate in the future.

The space redesign has made the library very flexible and amenable to students' needs. We have easily been able to move furniture to accommodate events for CHill with Diversity, as well as facilitating other programs in the library. The addition of the reading corner has inspired students to use the library space on their own for reading and socializing during study periods and before or after school.

### **Next Steps**

- Continue to search for new themes and topics for students to read about
- Utilize student input in searching for books that they find interesting in a variety of media (fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, etc.)
- Continue to work with English and Social Studies teachers to align the quarterly themes and topics with course work to help support the curriculum
- Work with librarians at other secondary schools in the county to expand program and incorporate Google Meets to allow students to converse with others outside of their own school about books
- Over the course of four years, incorporate different themes every year with different books, so that students who choose to participate each year will be exposed to a wide variety of themes and topics and further expand their critical thinking skills and work towards becoming well-rounded, empathetic, global citizens
- Improve marketing strategies to ensure that all students are aware of the program and feel inspired to participate