

## DEI Recognitions- September

Parkside Elementary School Principal, Chris Ellis led her team in a DEI Institute Day Conversation. During the conversation, Principal Ellis emphasized the importance of “Inclusivity for All.” They discussed ways to “Value and honor all students regardless of personal beliefs or values.” The meeting ended with a book review. In small groups, staff read children’s books on inclusion and identity. Staff rated the books based on clarity of message and appropriateness for their targeted grade levels. Reviewed books included [Red: A Crayon’s Story](#) and [Neither](#). We congratulate PSE for their intentional search for tools to increase young children’s understanding of differences.

Normal Community West High School Principal, Dave Johnson shared news of their equity focus in Volume 27 of the Normal West News. Principal Johnson demonstrated **inclusion** in this year’s theme, **Together We Will**. Additionally, the visualization of their school improvement plan highlights the critical role of **equity**. Mr. Johnson writes, “Just as the picture includes the sun that shines on the entire tree, our improvement plan at West includes an Equity Lens so that we ensure that we are improving what we do for all students.”

