Cultural Outreach had its October meeting on the 14th. We recapped last month and introduced October's theme of Global Diversity Month. After the meeting, the October group started brainstorming a variety of ways to commemorate our differences as we celebrate the month.

We set up an educational flag coloring activity during lunches on Tuesday the 26th. We were amazed and excited with the amount of student engagement!

In the D hallway we decorated a bulletin board featuring a world map. Students could take push pins and mark all the places LOHS students have been.

Furthermore, we wanted a way students could showcase their differences through cuisine. We encouraged students to submit their favorite family or international recipes. Those recipes were then compiled into an online cookbook; which students can use to explore something new.

Global Diversity Month provides us with the opportunity to reflect and appreciate our differences like geography, religion, race, sexual orientation, and many more. As we celebrate our differences, we must always remember to treat each other with respect and acceptance.

The origins of Global Diversity Month are unknown. However, the earliest acknowledgment of its importance can be traced to World War II. There, the United Nations drafted a declaration outlining rights that should be applied to all people.

Since then, many countries and political bodies have addressed the importance of diversity, but there is still a long way to go.
Let's Hear From Some Dragons!

We talked with seniors, Sania Hasan and Hong Bing Tang, about the significance of October's theme.

**Sania Hasan**

**What is an aspect of Global Diversity Month that is important to you?**

“Ethnicity is very important to me because I take a lot of pride in my culture, despite the backlash it receives in the media and the public. My ethnicity is one of the biggest parts of me; without my culture, I would not be the person I am today. Despite being born in America, my parents have worked hard at making sure my siblings and I grew up in a very ethnic household, maintaining our Pakistani culture in everything we do. The majority of our meals are ethnic foods, we regularly wear cultural clothes, and we enjoy listening to and watching popular Pakistani music and shows. This has allowed me to develop love, appreciation, and respect for my roots.”

**What should more people know about that aspect?**

“I think that people need to become more accepting of variability and in turn, ethnicity. It is important to recognize that while one’s ethnicity may make them different from the rest, it is not a bad thing. Without ethnicity and culture, the world would be bland. The differences that ethnicity bring on help further and better society instead of harming it.”

**Hong Bing Tang**

**What is an aspect of Global Diversity Month that is important to you?**

“Race is important to me because it promotes inclusiveness and looking at life at a different perspective. By respecting other people and learning about different people and their cultures, you get exposure to different lifestyles. This exposure also can make you realize that you are not so different from other people. By promoting diversity, you take a step in accepting others and being inclusive. Additionally by having a diverse group, everyone will have different experiences solving problems and the group can develop solutions that you never would have been aware of without diversity.”

**What should more people know about that aspect?**

“Obviously, it is important not to assume something about someone’s race. Instead you should have a conversation with them about their culture and lifestyle. Additionally, stereotypes, no matter how true, do not reflect a group of people as a whole. Staying away from these stereotypes makes sure you do not assume something about someone and promotes diversity and comfort.”