



Office of
Community Relations

North East Independent School District

8961 TESORO DRIVE - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78217

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

- What:** Under the theme, “Think, Speak, Act,” North East ISD will host a Student Unity Conference for high school students to learn about diversity and tolerance in order to promote a safe and welcoming school climate.
- Who:** More than 120 students from NEISD’s seven high schools, NEISD Student Teacher Assistance Network (STAN) counselors will participate in the conference.
- When:** February 18, 2010, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
- Where:** Community Education Learning Center, Room 217, 8750 Tesoro Drive.
Media will need to check-in with school staff prior to filming. School staff will be able to identify those students with permission to be photographed / filmed / interviewed.
- Why:** The Unity Conference will teach students to improve relationships among their peers from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds; communicate in peaceful and productive ways; create a welcoming and safe school climate; and provide the necessary skills to speak out against hate and injustice. The students who are attending were selected based on their leadership skills, ability to influence their peers and willingness to spread the message of peace and acceptance back at their campus.
- Visuals:** Students will participate in a ‘balloon activity’ where they will write different gifts and talents they have on the balloons. Then they will toss these ‘gifts’ in the air, seeing how great a variety they all have as a group. Next they will symbolically strengthen the impact of their gifts by collecting balloons into large clear plastic bags. Again, they will toss the now stronger group of gifts in the air. Water balloons, symbolizing challenges and pressures, will then be added to demonstrate the added difficulty in keeping their gifts afloat. Prior to this activity, student Unity Club officers will present to the group about campus clubs. Students will also wear their campus Unity Club t-shirts.

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About NEISD:

North East ISD has more than 70 schools and magnet programs with a fall 2010 enrollment of more than 66,000 students. NEISD employs more than 8,000 people. It is the second largest public school district in the San Antonio area and the eighth largest in the state. Under the Texas accountability system, 87 percent of NEISD schools are rated Exemplary or Recognized. The district earned Recognized for the third year in a row.

More information about NEISD can be found at www.neisd.net.