



Highview

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mounds View Public Schools

3/21/2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tsedenia L, I'm an 8th grader in Highview Middle School. In all nine years of my schooling in the Mounds View School District, it's pretty shocking to me that I haven't had a teacher of color. For many students, it rarely crosses their mind because it's the norm to have mostly white teachers in America. I believe that having teachers of color would make a better learning environment for me, as well as other students of color for various reasons. For example, it would show students that people of color can aspire to be in an influential profession such as being a teacher.

I think it is important that a school that has a diverse student body should be reflected in the faculty. If that were the case, perhaps both white and black students would feel properly represented and gain a different perspective and deeper understanding of race. In my personal experience, I have noticed that students are more eager to learn from a teacher that can relate to them on a cultural and a social standpoint. I feel like many of the ills of society today would be ratified if the curriculum and staff could be diversified. This would make a big impact on Highview because it would not only affect students of color, but it would help deepen our sense of community. If a school wants its students to be successful, caring, and productive members of society, then the school would invest in resources to find qualified, diverse educators.

Thank you for your time,

Tsedenia L
8th Grade Student



Highview

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mounds View Public Schools

Saylor G

Highview Middle School

2300 7th St NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

3/21/18

To whom it may concern,

My name is Saylor G and I'm a 7th grade non minority student at Highview Middle School. I feel that there should be more minority teachers because I think that having people of different race can make you feel more comfortable for when you meet someone out of a school area. I also think that it helps so you learn more about different cultures. The only minority teacher i've ever had in my school career was in fifth grade I had a Mexican American teacher she was a very nice lady and told us about her life growing up, her life experiences, etc. Although I am not a minority student I feel a lot more comfortable talking to my minority staff. I would love to see more minority teachers not just in my school but in general.

Sincerely,

Saylor G



Highview

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mounds View Public Schools

Tamia M
Highview Middle School
2300 7th St NW, New Brighton, MN 55112
3/20/18

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tamia I'm a 7th grader at Highview Middle School. I'm worried that there are not enough minority teachers. During my two years at Highview I've only had one minority teacher who is now at Irondale. Throughout my whole school career I've only had two African American teachers. I feel that having teachers that look like you shows you that you can do it too. She was always very friendly and helpful which is how my teachers are now but her being a African American woman helped me feel more open to telling her about myself because she understands my point of view. African Americans are often portrayed in a negative light. Seeing a teacher who looks like me that went to a great college and is a positive member of my community makes me feel that I can be more than the stereotypes. I think that all children need a positive role model and not everyone has that at home and that one teacher that looks like them could make all the difference. At Highview I'm a part of the stars leadership group. Mrs. Kevon our group leader is a African American woman who talks with us once a week and it would be nice to have someone like her around all week. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tamia M.
7th grade student



Highview

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Mounds View Public Schools
3/21/2018

To whom it may concern

I am Tenzin L I'm a 7th grader at Highview Middle School. In all my 8 years of being in school I have only had one minority teacher. I feel more comfortable speaking to a minority teacher, because they understand what it's like to be a minority, unlike non minorities. I feel like more minority teachers would also make other students feel more comfortable around the school, and would add diversity to schools. I have had 3 minority staff members they helped me in focusing on my grades and behavior by checking on me every week. It would make the ratio from minority students to non minority students more equal, and make people more comfortable.

Sincerely

**Tenzin L
7th Grade Student**



Highview

MIDDLE SCHOOL

To: Whomever This May Concern,

My name is Eddie and I am an 8th grade student at Highview Middle School. I support the notion that we have more people of color in the school system. I am for this because of the facts of this topic as well as the inside experience I have as a student of color. This idea implemented well could result in students of color doing better in school, as well as life.

One of the biggest problems in minorities communities have is fatherlessness, most of my friends that are minority don't have a father present. Not finding a good father figure made gangs, drugs, and suicide seem like a very viable option for me, as well as many of my friends. If not for my kindergarten teacher Lewis I would have participated in these things.

At the age of four , I remember seeing my father doing coke. He did things that no human, let alone four year old should ever see or be subject to. I naturally acted like him, because he was my only male role model. I started attacking and hitting other kids because of what I saw. Then I met Lewis, my kindergarten teacher. I remember what he did for me. He taught me that I could be different from my father, that I could break out of that circle of gang violence, drugs, and suicide. He was my new male minority role model, he set me straight. No other teacher connect with me like he did because he knew what it felt like to go through struggles of being a minority.

If not for some of my minority male teachers being there for me, I could have been that run-away, that guy with behavior problems, that suicide. But because of my mixed culture school system I was able to break from the cycle of drugs, gang crime, and of not going to college. Though my school system was diverse many are not, and many people of color don't break though what I did.

I feel lucky, because most of my counterparts don't have a Lewis to help get their path straight. So we need more teachers of color to do that like our STRIPES leader Mr.Johnson. We need more people to help the future Obama's, Martin Luther's, Rosa Parks. So I urge you to support this idea for the sake of all students in Minnesota.

Sincerely and God Bless,


Edward H.M.P.

P.S.

3/21/2018

There are just as much and if not even more benefits of having women of color in the schools. I just wanted to focus on my experience, and I urge other minority women to share their experiences too.



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3/21/2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is CJ R and I am a 8th grader at Highview Middle School. I believe that schools should hire minority teachers. I feel like having minority teachers has had a big effect on the educational system because many minority students connect better with minority teacher like how I do with Mr. Johnson. I believe that it is easier to connect with minority teachers because we have shared experiences and it is easy to talk to them about because you feel comfortable. We don't really see them in the educational system and many of them would fit in perfectly. The last time I had a minority teacher was in 5th grade, Mrs. Weddington. While in Mrs. Weddington's class it was like an extension of home because she shares the same goals and achievements for me. My mom happens to be a minority teacher and she is very good at her job and I know that minority students are able to connect with her. That is why I think we should have minority teachers.

Sincerely and God bless,

CJ R.

8th Grade Student



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3/21/18

To Whom It May Concern,

Hi my name is Robert G I am a student at Highview Middle school. I feel that we need more minority teachers because they understand us more. They feel caring and honest and they don't get mad at us they listen and try to help because we share similar experiences. I have a hard time talking to other teachers they feel judgmental but Mr.Johnson actual cares about us. I have never had a minority teacher except for guidance counselors but after meeting Mr.Johnson I'm really excited about school. At my last school I had all white teachers and that was the worst year for me, but Mr. Johnson helped instead of saying do your work he took time to do it with me and I feel like it would be like that with all minority teachers. If there were more people that looked like me at my school I would feel eager and more happy about coming here every day to not only learn but feel understood.

Sincerely,

Robert G

Robert G
8TH Grade Student



Highview

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mounds View Public Schools

3/21/2018

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Tayviontae W and I am a 8th grader at highview middle school. I think that schools should hire more minority teachers. To me minority teachers make a big impact in schools, especially with other minority student. Minority teachers connect better with student more of the time and they also understand the experiences they have gone through or are going through. I personally feel more comfortable to talk to minority teacher more because they seem easier to relate to. Sometimes in class I have behavior issues and it's hard to talk to anyone because they won't understand as much as someone like mr.johnson would that's why I have a better time listening to minority teacher. When I was in elementary school I had a minority teacher that I could always talk to and I knew they were always there for me and cared for me. That is why I believe schools should hire more minority teachers.

Sincerely

Tay. W

Tayviontae W

8th grade student



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M.N.S.L Minority Letter

Destiny B.

March 20, 2018

Dear to whom this may concern,

My name is Destiny B. I'm 7th grade student at Highview Middle School. I am writing to you today because I want to bring up the topic of having more minority teachers. That is something that can be fixed if we try hard enough. We need to be community and we can't be a community without unity. In the 2016-2017 school year at Highview alone there has only been 1 minority teacher who is now gone this year, & she is now gone. She was important to me because she was a teacher that made me feel like I belong she was someone that looked like me & I looked up to which made me feel like there is someone who understands what it's like to be me. I feel like having more teaches that look like me and are like me makes feel more comfortable in my environment. Not having a minority teacher is hard. I feel like having a minority teachers makes me feel as if nothing is impossible. If minority teachers are able to break down walls of racial prejudice and stereotypes I'm able to do it too. Through my leadership group Miss. Kevon a minority group leader gives me a weekly presence, but it would be better to have a teacher like that daily.

Thank you for and consideration,

Destiny B.

7th grade student



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M.N.S.L Minority Letter

Juliyah R.

March 21, 2018

To whom it may concern,

Hello my name is Juliyah R., I am an 7th grade student at Highview Middle school. I feel as if there should be more minority teachers in general because it makes students feel more welcome and comfortable. In my school career I have no minority teachers, this is the first year I've had an staff where I can tell them stuff I can't tell any other staff. I feel like he relates to me because share the same culture and experiences. I would like to have this feeling with other teachers. I feel as if this would benefit other students too.

Sincerely

Juliyah R.

7th grade student

March 22, 2013

Name: Damon M. Langford

Grade: 11th

School: Mounds View High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools? So that children of minority can hopefully bond and connect with the teachers. It's also important to have a good amount of diversity so that all students feel comfortable in their environment.

March 20, 2018

Name: Shucayb Ali

Grade: 10

School: Mounts View High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

More variety and have ethnic students can relate to their teachers
More

March 29, 2018

Name: Romeo Sackie

Grade: 9th

School: Mounts View High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

It makes things easier because students will feel comfortable talking to their teachers about their problems. And having different race of teachers while there are different race of student is a good idea, students will be happy and can go to whoever they want to talk to for help.

March 20, 2010

Name: BeJay B.

Grade: 12th

School: moundsview High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

- because, certain kids can relate with teachers with color ~~and~~ ~~and~~ and kids that african american that go to a school of whites are going to feel like they're not fitting in and having one or couple of black teachers the african american kids will want to come to school more, and i saw on goggle that black students actually do better in school with a black teacher. like mounds view is full of white people and we only have like 8 or 9 black kids here and sum transfereed because it wasn't alot of black people and white teachers cant relate with black students and black teachers can. my honest opinion, having teachers of color allows students to see people who look like them in positions of influence.

I also ~~think~~ think that same race teachers can also affect relations with parents. black parents maybe more comfortable dealing with a black teacher more then a ~~white~~ white one

March 23, 2020

Name: Fayssal Abdullahi

Grade: 9th

School: Mounds View High School.

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

I think that it might make a difference because we speak the same language and you get each other.

March 20, 2018

Name: Josef Armstrong

Grade: 9

School: Mamie's View High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

Because there are students of color
students should have teachers of color like
white students have white teachers.
Some students might perform better also.

March 30, 2018

Name: Robert H

Grade: 10th

School: Mounds View High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

Teacher with color tend to be really positive and can relate with others.

March 29, 2018

Name: Dylan Lee Leschowsky

Grade: 10th

School: Moundview High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

Because if you only have one color you don't feel right in the class so if you have color teachers you can feel better about your self and I feel that if you have more color teachers that more kids that were color would come to Moundview I feel that everyone would be happy if we can do this.

March 20, 2018

Name: Ezekiel Evans

Grade: 11th

School: Moundsview

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

It is important because we need more black history there is barely any black history in this school. We as black students walk in and automatically feel like we don't belong. You walk in and see all of these white kids standing around and we are looking around for the black kids.

March 20, 2018

Name: Rowmeo Ross

Grade: 10

School: Mondaview High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

It's important because it could help other students of color in this school feel welcome.

March 20, 2018

Name: Joseph Cole

Grade: 11

School: Moundsview HS

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

So everyone feels well connected.

March 28, 2018

Name: Kemari Watts

Grade: 9th

School: Mounds view high school

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

It really matters, especially the part when teachers of color make it their goal to help you get on track and keep you above average and give you helpful lectures and trick within high school.

March 24, 2018

Name: Luis B

Grade: 4

School: Mounds View

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

because he or she is going to understand
and the other students can be helped if

March 20, 2018

Name: Gamada H Sultan

Grade: 11th

School: Mounds View High School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

Well because many people have go to Mounds View High School, always have told me that ^{this} school didn't had people who doesn't look like me. I think that we should push of people of color who should come to this school and try to connect and help for these kids who our not white because it can really put an effect towards kids who isn't ~~white~~ ^{can} feel not awkward to those ~~white~~.

March 20, 2018

Name: Aidan Delacruz

Grade: 11

School: Mounds View

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

It's important to have more diversity in teachers because some students need connect more with different teachers and it's important for some students who cannot connect with the teachers we have now.

March 20, 2018

Name: Langston Hall

Grade: 7

School: Chipewa Middle

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

I feel you should be more people of color because they can help embrace your culture at school

March 20, 2018

Name: Shag Nawir

Grade: 8

School: Chippewa Middle School

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

So there is more diversity in the school

March 20, 2018

Name: Travis

Grade: 7

School: Chippewa

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

Because we ^{need} more variety.

They would understand me,

March 20, 2018

Name: James Berry

Grade: 7

School: ChipWwa

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

Because black people go to
the school: make black people
feel more together with the
white

March 20, 2018

Name: Joan Grande

Grade: 8

School: Chippewa

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

So the students see more of their race and they can relate to staff.

March 20, 2018

Name: Tahir Paye-baker

Grade: 6th

School: Chippewa

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

SO WE CAN FEEL LIKE WE ARE WELCOME
IN ~~THE~~ SCHOOL INSTEAD OF SEEING A LOT OF WHITE
~~PEOPLE~~ PEOPLE IN MY SCHOOL AND SEE MORE
PEOPLE OF COLOR

March 20, 2018

Name: Thomas

Grade: 8

School: Chippewa middle school

Why is it important to have teachers of color in our schools?

It would relate to other students and teachers
