



## **Cultural Awareness '24-'25**

### **Culture:**

The student population of James S. Rickards Middle is about 50% Hispanic. Of that 50% population about 20% of them are active LY students who English is not their primary language. Students come to Rickards from countries such as Nicaragua, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

### **How is the school acknowledging this culture?**

Rickards proudly celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the month morning announcements reflect the accomplishments of prominent Hispanic leaders in the United States. Teachers incorporate lessons that teach students the diverse journey of many Hispanic Americans experienced when they arrived to the US.

Hispanic Heritage Night is held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. It is the most popular theme night of the school year where over 200 families come to campus and enjoy Latin food, student led dances, student led projects, storytelling sessions, and Latin music band performances.

Rickards promotes cultural diversity on our school website by including photos of Hispanic Heritage month events. The school recognizes language and cultural barriers by creating Spanish language only parent gatherings.

To assist understanding on morning announcements, Spanish translation occurs so students don't miss out on important information. School publications such as parent links, parent newsletters, event flyers, and calendar information is translated into Spanish. School signage is offered in English and in Spanish.

The school employs bi-lingual office staff who provide excellent customer service to all families.

### **Comments:**

James S. Rickards Middle School greatly values diversity.