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3/17/2024

Husky Pride

I have been a proud Husky since my days as a kindergartener, my small shoes scraping against the gravelly pavement as I ran the Husky Hustle, to now, when I holler and scream in the crowd whenever we score at a football game. It has always been like that, for so long that it is now engraved into who I am. Being a Husky has always been a part of my identity, and I am so proud that it is.

Whenever I tell someone that I am a Husky, a sense of pride sends a warm feeling through my body. Pride has become so much more than a word at our school. We have come to admire it, to embrace it as to who we are. To Huskies, pride stands for persistent, respectful, inclusive, dependable, and everyday. "Show pride," the teachers would say, and that is what we would do. Picking up a gum wrapper that isn't yours, holding open the door for a teacher, inviting someone to sit with you at lunch, all of these Huskies do on a daily basis out of their nature. All of these I take pride in seeing.

Diversity has always been a part of being a Husky, and I am beyond proud to say that. People of all kinds, able to come together and learn—each and every individual is a unique Husky. Language, religion, beliefs, traditions, and more are all so diverse among Huskies. In Husky schools, we have different language programs such as Spanish immersion and Chinese immersion, which I'm in. Walking down the halls and hearing the chatter of different languages always brings me a surge of pride. I am also forever grateful for the opportunity to be able to learn with so many different types of people. The other day in Crew, a Muslim girl was explaining Ramadan to the class. Sitting there and watching her speak, I knew the rest of the class was

listening just as intently as I was. I will always have pride in how our school is so diverse, because no matter our differences, we are all Huskies.

A close tie with diversity is inclusivity. Huskies are always inclusive and welcoming. Our school recently held a unified basketball game for the special education kids. The whole school created posters for every kid playing. Steady hands swiped streaks of color across the posters, and students focused intently on what they were sketching. When the game began, everyone was sitting in the bleachers. Anytime a team scored—whether our team or the other—we would all cheer at the top of our lungs and wave our posters in a frenzy. As I sat there, hooting and hollering with everyone else, a warm feeling draped over me, engulfing me with a sense of belonging. I knew I belonged there, as well as everyone else. I will always take pride in saying that Huskies include all, and make everyone feel that they belong.

I know that I will always be a Husky, throughout school and perhaps my whole life. Huskies are diverse and inclusive. Everyone can't help but feel a sense of belonging when they are with them. Huskies take pride in who they are, and show pride everyday. The Huskies are a pack, and I am so proud to be able to call myself one of them.