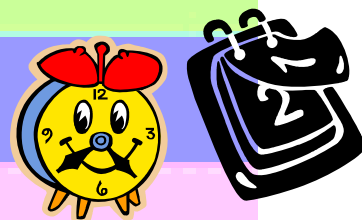


Day of Silence

Frequently Asked Questions

? What are the time and day requirements?

The National Day of Silence takes place Wednesday, April 25, 2008, and SFUSD acknowledges Gay Pride Commemoration in April. Pick a date or an hour that works best for your school community. For example, some schools set aside a school wide ten minute period of silence. Other sites have designated a table during a silent lunch period. Still others have events that last all day.



? What if a participant is harassed?

Remember that participating in the Day of Silence stresses that everyone is affected by prejudice and oppression. As we would do for any instance of harassment, intervene as appropriate. Have a safe space where participants can check in.

Remember that the SFUSD Anti-slur policy is clear about verbal and physical harassment. Enlist the support of teachers and administration to keep the school free from slurs on the Day of Silence by reminding students of these policies that protect the rights of all students.

? How am I expected to teach class if I am silent?

Perhaps teachers can consider a silent reading or writing activity. Tests are never fun, but it may be the day to give exams in class. Another option is to speak, but to acknowledge the day, and to respect the right of student participants to remain silent; do not direct questions or discussion items to Day of Silence participants.



Yet another thing to consider would be to join the Day of Silence for lunch, and support those students who remain silent by attending the conclusion of the day, when silence is broken.

? Don't we need to inform the parents?

It is always encouraged to inform parents/guardians as sites would for any event, but parent notification is not required. The Day of Silence addresses the rights of all members of our school community to have a voice. Again, oppression and bias cross all boundaries of society. By participating in the Day of Silence, students learn respect for those who might be different from themselves.

? Are there any curriculum resources to consider?

Yes! See resource list provided by SHPD for K-12 lessons and activities.

