

## 30-DAY CHALLENGE: EXPERIENCING THE OTHER...

As a follow-up to Charlotte Lab School's panel discussion & town hall

**Perspectives on School Diversity**, this challenge presents families with a list of actions that encourage you to walk in another person's shoes. Many families who live in economically disadvantaged households live without certain privileges that others often take for granted. Each of the suggested actions are intended to help families experience what life could be like without these privileges.

### How does it work?

**Choose** one challenge from **EACH** of the four listed categories. Some of the actions require you to leave your comfort zone, while others can be done from your home.

**Commit** to experiences that push you into situations or places that you don't usually find yourself, AND choose at least one experience you can do with your child(ren).

**Keep an open mind and heart.**

**Bring** this completed sheet to Multicultural Night on **May 15** where families will have the opportunity to share reflections on these experiences by contributing to a collaborative art piece.

## SUGGESTED EXPERIENCES

### Temporarily live without personal comforts

- Take public transportation to school/work for one day or commit to a whole week
- Turn your cellphone and computer off for a day, or a few days and only interact with the people you see face to face
- Do your weekly laundry at the laundromat

### Temporarily restrict food and budget

- Spend no more than \$25/per person in your household on groceries for one week
- Drive through your neighborhood and count the number of grocery stores and reflect on the products you typically purchase. Then drive around West Charlotte and choose a store to do your shopping. Note the similarities and differences you observe
- Avoid getting a sitter and keep your child(ren) with you for a week/weekend when you have plans that may not be "kid focused or kid friendly"
- Put your debit and credit cards away and use only cash for your family's expenses for one week or an entire 30 days

### Visit & Observe:

- Go to eviction court and spend time listening/observing the cases. Mecklenburg County Courthouse is located at **832 East Fourth Street**
- Sit in the lobby of the Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services for at least 2 hours and observe. The office is located at **301 Billingsley Road**
- Talk to a worker or family at the Immigration Office. The address is **6130 Tyvola Centre Dr.**

### Read or Listen, then discuss with a friend

- Reinventing education with desegregation  
<http://tinyurl.com/ktq35ee>
- Socio-economic diversity helps all students  
<http://tinyurl.com/mr24qs2>
- White children benefit from integration  
<http://tinyurl.com/q4jemvl>
- Standing up for inequity  
<http://tinyurl.com/nxpsklj>