

ITE Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Mission Statement

Ithaca Talent Education stands against **all** forms of racism and white supremacy; we join the national call that Black Lives Matter, the AAPI community is invisible no more, and believe that hate has no home at ITE or the broader Suzuki community. We take an actively anti-racist stance that aims to create spaces where **everyone** feels safe, included and respected.

Dr. Suzuki believed and put into practice the radical idea that every child [and person] should be deeply respected for who they are. We are committed to embracing diversity in all of its forms and manifestations. ITE does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, disability, sexuality and expression, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admission, scholarship, or any other school-administered programs. ***Expressions of bigotry, hatred, oppression, and malice are intolerable and inexcusable in our school.***

Music has the possibility to be an agent of change that can unite us in our pursuit of a better world. Representation matters in everyday life and our children deserve to see themselves reflected in the music we program. We recognize that art from all communities has a place in the catalogues of music we practice daily, and commit to including a diverse experience for our students and families.

Even though Ithaca is seen as progressive, we know there is work to be done and welcome all of ITE to participate in providing equity and access to those in need. Moving forward, we plan to reach out to local leaders, examine systemic racism in all forms, engage in difficult conversations, and take steps towards a more inclusive program, community, country and world.