

Nice White Parents

“Everyone wants ‘what’s best for the school’ but it becomes clear that they don’t share the same vision of what ‘best’ means.”



<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/podcasts/nice-white-parents-serial.html?action=click&module=audio-series-bar®ion=header&pgtype=Article>

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Nice White Parents is a podcast by Chana Joffe-Walt. The podcast begins with Joffe-Walt explaining how she is school shopping in New York City. A group of wealthy white parents were looking at a school in New York called The School for International Studies (SIS). This was a diverse school. However, one of the white parents started a French speaking program which brought many white students to this school. While this might sound like a good idea, it didn't take long for people to realize that this new program only benefited the new white students and not the students who have attended this school for years. This program enticed more white students to attend SIS. While having opportunities for students to learn another language and further their education is important, it is also important for schools to share that other languages (like their native language) are valuable too. It is so important to know that students of all backgrounds are essential to creating a diverse and inclusive school.

I really enjoyed listening to this podcast because it was eye opening to hear how some people can come across. It can be so easy for someone to “pay themselves on the back” and to say that they want to enhance the school's academics by adding a French speaking program. However, when we step back and look at the whole picture, we can see that the program doesn't benefit everyone. Sometimes, all it does is make white people feel better

that they “saved” or “enhanced” the school. This podcast has encouraged me to be more aware of what I am doing and *why* I made those decisions.

I think that this piece will affect my efforts in my classroom because I teach a diverse population. I have always been very careful about the things that I say and do. I do not want to accidentally offend or upset anyone. However, this podcast has reminded me to take a look at my reasoning before starting something that could potentially hurt or diminish what someone else has already done.

