

# THEME SONG

## MATERIALS |

access to YouTube or other music internet site

**OBJECTIVES |** The objective of this activity is to collectively decide on a song that will serve as inspiration for the year.

## FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Introduce the importance of music to inspire, motivate, center us, and help us feel things (see “Music As Inspiration” activity)

### Option 1: Pick a Song

Divide participants into groups of 3-4. Invite each group to think of a song that they feel captures the kind of community they want to have with each other or inspires them to be their best selves. This may require them being able to play various proposed songs for each other and read or listen to the lyrics. Ask each group to pick one song that they can all agree on.

After all of the groups have submitted their songs write the song titles on a board and listen to them as a class, while reading the lyrics. Ask participants to put a tally mark on the board under all of the songs they like.

After tallying, invite people to make a case for the song they think best captures the community they want to have with each other. Then take a vote! There are many ways to do this. You can allow each student to vote once or allow each student to vote twice and then narrow between the top two.

### Option 2: Change the Lyrics

Ask participants to brainstorm a list of popular songs that have inspirational beats but maybe not inspirational lyrics. Go on YouTube and play “clean” or “musical” version of song if possible. Vote on the song that students like best. Divide students into groups to brainstorm lyrics for different sections of the song relevant to their vision of the kind of school community they want. At the end of class collect lyrics and type them.

## DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- What is one thing you liked about today?
- Why does this song inspire you?



## SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/creating-community-norms/>

## NOTES |

Be prepared to address inappropriate language in songs or play “clean” versions.

Consider keeping track of all of the proposed songs for a community playlist.

Once a song has been decided play it regularly for students throughout the year as an opening, closing, energizer, or if students need inspiration.

EXTENSION(S): Consider inviting participants to choreograph a dance to the song they chose; or Video tape or record students singing or performing the song. Do not share on social media without express consent.