

*The 2017 - 2018 Onaway PTO Speaker Series*

**Leveling the Playing Field:  
Addressing Issues of Equity  
to Close the Achievement Gap**

Children belonging to historically disparaged groups face an uneven playing field in public education. Addressing this issue remains one of the main challenges in advancing equity and excellence in education. The achievement gap, or the observed, persistent disparity in the measure of educational performance among groups defined by socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and gender, as well as providing equity across gifted education programs, programs for international and LGBTQ families, and special education programs are challenges that many communities face today.

As such, the Shaker Heights School District developed initiatives like the Equity Task Force and other student and parent-led groups to tackle the issues of equity and the achievement gap to increase student success in all levels of education at Shaker schools.

Our speakers will discuss: what the achievement gap looks like in Shaker, the mission and goals of the newly formed Equity Task Force, and how to empower parents and community members to help remove barriers to overall student success. Please come and join our discussion.

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 7pm at Onaway Elementary**

Babysitting will be provided to all Onaway Families

Save the following dates for upcoming Onaway School Speaker Series Talks: 1/15/18, 3/21/18, and 5/16/18.

There will be more details to follow on speakers and discussion topics.

**Speakers Include:**

**Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Jr. - Superintendent, Shaker Heights City Schools**

**Mr. Eric Forman - Principal at Onaway Elementary**

**Mrs. Denise Brown - IB & Enrichment Coordinator, Onaway Elementary**

**Dr. Ricia Weiner - School psychologist, mother of two Onaway students, and member of the Equity Task Force**

**Pastor Colin Jones - Community member, pastor at Shaker Heights Community Church, and co-chair of the Equity Task Force**

**Please RSVP Online:**

**[https://OnawayPTO\\_LevelingThePlayingField.eventbrite.com](https://OnawayPTO_LevelingThePlayingField.eventbrite.com)**