



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES
PHOTO AND VIDEO OPPORTUNITY**

Friday, April 13, 2012
11:15 AM
Island Park in Sarasota

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 – Sarasota, FL – American Sign Language students from Sarasota High will “sign” an interpretation of the song “I Can See Clearly Now” in the center of Sarasota’s Island Park, location of the “Embracing our Differences” showcase (see attached general news release about the annual event). The signing performance will be at 11:15 a.m., Friday, April 13, 2012.

The SHS students who will sign the song range in age from 14 to 18. Some of their field trip chaperones are deaf and native signers, so the first hour of the trip all students will be required to sign anything they want to say. Other chaperones are certified interpreters who will interpret the signing for the Embracing Our Differences student docents from Riverview High School.

According to SHS American Sign Language teacher Deborah Leverentz, the signing interpretation of the song is designed to convey the idea that “we must have an enlightened dream of working together toward a more perfect way.”

After the performance, students will be able to talk to one another and eat lunch, sharing their reactions to the silence they experienced earlier. Leverentz said, “We hope this will be an event that will help people become aware of the deaf community in our city and the students who are learning their language.”

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About Embracing Our Differences

Embracing Our Differences is a project of Coexistence, Inc. Started in 2004; the project showcases a community-based outdoor exhibit promoting positive, inspirational artistic and verbal expressions of inclusion, tolerance, acceptance and respect. The 2012 exhibit runs through May 28. www.EmbracingOurDifferences.org