



To: NRSD Families and Faculty

From: Brooke Clenchy, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Todd Maguire, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Date: June 2, 2020

Re: Promoting Equity and Acceptance

Dear Families and Faculty Members,

As you all know, the tragic death of George Floyd has impacted many people in our country and in our community. The horrific incident leading to Mr. Floyd's death, the on-going racial profiling of so many young Black people, and the understandable feelings of pain, frustration, anger, and fear shared by many people of color can be quite overwhelming for students in our country and in our schools.

The events over the course of the past week have been deeply troubling to us, as we know they have been for you. As educators, we are asked to make sense of a complex world and we believe we are unable to do that in this instance; we struggle to make sense of the fact that it has been 56 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and yet we are experiencing unimaginable scenes in the media each night.

We teach students about the tremendous civil rights progress made with the leadership and guidance of equal rights champions like Nelson Mandela and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. However, those gains have been undermined by acts of oppression and violence. Most recently this was exemplified by the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery.

Millions of Americans, led by a generation of young people, are speaking out about this injustice. We stand with all who condemn any acts of violence.

It is my hope that we take this opportunity to contemplate things that we can do in our own lives to help create equality for all citizens. This is about all of us, collectively, making a difference.

Our NRSD mission statement includes this key phrase: "educate all students to....become...positive contributors to the global community." We will be examining our own programs and curricula to determine how we can help to ensure that we are supporting our students to build a better world. We must provide creative and engaging programming that stimulates students to think about the racism and inequality in our nation.

We can take this time to reflect on steps we can take as citizens and future leaders to create fairness with the goal of one day achieving a truly just society for people of all races.

We shall be positive contributors to ensure that voices, concerns and fears in our community are heard and addressed. We must better understand how our action – and inaction – impacts the lives of the people we love as well as people we will never meet.

We have established a new tab on our NRSD website entitled “Promoting Tolerance” that will be live tomorrow and we encourage you to check it out should you be seeking additional resources. We have included a web page linked here that parents may want to peruse as a primer:

[SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCES](#)

We will continue to add links to the NRSD website tab throughout the upcoming week.

We encourage you to seek out other peaceful ways to be a part of positive change for our country. As we have demonstrated in the past, the entire NRSD community stands in unity against all forms of hate, racism, and prejudice.

Yours in partnership,



Brooke Clenchy  
Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Todd Maguire  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools