

Letter to the Community June 2, 2020

Dear Dobbs Ferry School Community,

This week begins with a national heavy heart and sadness at the unfathomable death of George Floyd and the video of the murder of this unarmed black man now indelible in our collective conscience. We know that the endless, senseless deaths of our brothers and sisters of color and this shocking, unnecessary violence must cease. As the daughter of a police officer, this is a personal struggle but I am sick and tired of what we continue to witness in our cities and communities across this country.

Every day, countless actions in every facet of life pick at the scab of racism in our society. As an educator and leader, the violent and shattering aftermath of these senseless deaths is a frightening reminder that racism - policies, systematic practices, and bigotry need to be talked about and discussed in our classrooms and in our families. In Dobbs Ferry, we have been engaged with this important work for the past two years. Our staff has worked with highly regarded professional developers and our District Equity Committee provides resources to teachers for use in our classrooms. We have used a number of texts with all of our staff to help foster and unravel issues of race and how to talk about race with each other and with our students. We have much work to do and are in the process of partnering with NYU Steinhardt Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools to extend this work and develop a more comprehensive approach which will include parents and community.

During these very challenging days, it is important for families to join us in helping our children to process what is surely a frightening time. There are many excellent resources available and because all families are different, I share only one that may be of help. Families interested in more resources can contact me and I am happy to help point to additional options.

<https://www.apa.org/res/parent-resources/engaging-my-child>

I know that all of our school families, especially our families of color must be particularly traumatized and to them, I extend my sincerest prayers for healing. If your child is in need of assistance in processing what is happening - please reach out to our counseling staff who are always ready to help.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brady
Superintendent