

Resolution Against Hate and Supporting Our Children

From: Kelly Jackson (jacksonk@wilmette39.org)

To: [REDACTED]

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Dear 5-8 Families,

We continue to be shocked, saddened, and angered by the images on the news of the racism and hatred occurring in our communities stemming from the death of George Floyd last week in Minneapolis. Over the last few days, we've engaged in conversations and gathered resources while we wrapped our minds around the thoughts: How do we support our students during these very difficult times? How do we educate against racism in the face of so much fear and violence? How do we best support so many who are suffering?

In District 39, we condemn hate and racism in all its forms. Over the past four years, District 39 has been working as a community to improve the climate and culture in our schools and beyond through supporting an inclusive, tolerant, and accepting environment and mindset within and among our students, staff, and families. The [District 39 Resolution Against Hate](#), coupled with the [Statement of Inclusion](#), outline our ongoing commitment to a safe and equitable learning environment for all of our students.

If school was physically in session, we would bring our team together to support the healing of our students, staff, families and surrounding communities. Together we would find ways to engage our students in this dialogue and continue to work toward a greater future for everyone affected, especially our black communities.

We find ourselves in a unique situation with these recent events unfolding during a global pandemic, as we are distanced from one another when our children could use the support of their community the most. As parents and educators, we need to come together and partner to address our children's feelings of anxiety around the current state of civil unrest and uncertainty in the world. While this can be a difficult conversation to have, we encourage you to, in the next few days, take the opportunity to talk with your children about what is going on, listen to their concerns, acknowledge their feelings, and help them navigate through these challenging times.

To that end, we have some resources that can help you engage in these conversations:

- Teaching Tolerance - "[Beyond the Golden Rule](#)" -- a parent guide to preventing and responding to prejudice for all ages, as well as for ourselves
- American Psychological Association - [Talking to Kids about Discrimination](#)
- Parent Toolkit - [How to Talk to Kids About Race and Racism](#)
- [How to Talk to Kids about Race, Privilege Amid George Floyd Protests](#) - Good Morning America
- ADL Table Talk (for family conversations):(Ages 11+)
 - [Table Talk: George Floyd, Racism and Law Enforcement](#) - Explore and discuss with your children the recent death of George Floyd within the larger context of systemic racism and the Black Lives Matter movement
- Reading Resource: [Taking a Stand Virtual Library](#)
- Virtual Read-aloud: [A Kids Book about Racism](#)
- [Equity Page of the D39 Virtual Library](#)

We acknowledge that everyone is being affected by these events in different ways. Please reach out if your child needs additional support.

Together we will work to leave this world better than we see it today,

Kelly Jackson, *Administrator for 5-8 Education*

Linda Moric, Susie Carlson, Jeff Dees, and Eric Resis, *Grade Level Administrators*

Dr. Kari Cremascoli, *Superintendent*

