



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL | LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

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June 2, 2020

Dear Centennial Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

In light of the horrific events that led to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, and the ensuing protests and riots happening across our country, I want to reaffirm our commitment to our core values of diversity, equity, and humanity that unquestionably includes our perpetual quest to evolve and grow as an anti-racist school community. I know words are just that, words. We need action. We need to stand in solidarity with our black and brown community to defeat systemic racism. Centennial School remains committed to building a school community that supports and celebrates black lives. We will continue to deepen our understanding of the history of black lives in our country, listen to and learn from those affected by racism, and examine our own attitudes and beliefs to ultimately enact anti-racist practices in our school community. All of us must work together to model the importance of being part of a society in which discrimination and racism are not tolerated.

Knowing that our students may see or hear about high profile acts of violence, especially highly publicized incidents, we wanted to offer support to help reduce the confusion, distress and fear that may follow for some of our students. Initiating an age-appropriate conversation can provide children with context and an opportunity to process difficult events with guidance. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) [offers a resource](#) for how you can talk with your child about these violent events.

We also want to reinforce Centennial School's mission to provide a safe, nurturing, encouraging, and affirming environment for all students and their families. As we prepare our students to find success in the community at large and the world beyond, it is important to help them develop a shared responsibility and accountability, and recognition of the worth and dignity of all persons. During times of conflict, it is our goal to remain focused on issues that impact our community and strive to develop positive solutions for the betterment of our staff, students and their families. As we work together, we aim to develop recognition and appreciation for the unique skills and contributions that each person brings to our school environment and remain willing to share and learn from one another.



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Despite the circumstances that have forced our Centennial School community not to be physically together at this time, we can come together in supporting a culture of inclusivity and racial equality from our respective homes. I wholeheartedly ask you to join our school community in taking meaningful steps to end racial disparities in our nation. We, now more than ever, must take action and model for others, “Nice Matters.”

Be kind and healthy,

Julie B. Fogt