



HYDE-ADDISON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

June 1, 2020

Dear Hyde-Addison ES Staff and Families,

I hope all is well with you and your loved ones. This has been a challenging time, as we continue to face clear racial and social-economic disparities in our country. I recognize the pain and trepidation associated with such a reality and I want the Hyde-Addison ES community to know that I will continue to stand for what is just and equitable.

I empathize with the victims of such inhumane incidents, as I have personally endured acts of prejudice, profiling and personal attacks, rooted in nothing more than the color of my skin. Even as Dr. Hooks, these occurrences remain consistent, and at times this seems to be an insurmountable hurdle to overcome. But, as a community, I believe we must not allow these most recent tragedies to be in vain. It is our responsibility to use this as an opportunity to learn, grow and influence positive change.

As I have previously shared, regardless of race, gender, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, social class or any other identifying label, every student should feel valued, nurtured and equipped with the skills necessary to become global citizens. An individual's self-proclaimed entitlement does not equate to a right to impede upon the opportunities of others. All of our students deserve to experience the joys of life and the pride of dreams fulfilled. Equity is not simply a buzzword to be spewed as a tool to appease one's own sense of inclusion. We must reflect on our own biases and not carry internal declarations of power as badges of honor. Our students deserve better. Our community deserves better.

The Hyde-Addison ES team plans to create forums to hold valuable discussions and provide resources to our families. The school's core values of curiosity, diversity, integrity, kindness, and perseverance will all play a major role in our healing and development as a school community. Thank you in advance for your continued support and I look forward to your partnership in these efforts. In the interim, please see information shared by DCPS, below.

DCPS Event: Talking about race with your child

*As a part of our DCPS Parent University series, we will offer a free online workshop, "Talking about Race with Your Child" this **Wednesday, June 3 at 5:30 pm**. [You can RSVP to attend here](#), and the event will be archived if you are unable to join in real time.*

Article: "What do we tell our children?"

In this [article from USA Today](#), child psychologists answer questions parents are asking after the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, and offer developmentally appropriate ways to talk to children of all ages about racism and police brutality.

In Solidarity,

Calvin R. Hooks

Calvin R. Hooks, Ed.D.

Principal

Hyde-Addison Elementary School

District of Columbia Public Schools