

SCHOOL DISTRICT

OF SUPERIOR

All Means All: Every Student, Every Day

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June 2, 2020

Dear Spartan Families,

Last Monday, the nation watched yet another needless tragedy and unnecessary loss of life of an African American man. As leaders of our school community, the school board and I are asking ourselves how we can even begin to share our grief with you and our commitment to change. There are no words that can fully express the anger, frustration, and sadness we have felt in the last week. We grieve for the family of George Floyd, our communities of color, and our country. This event and all those before this impact us deeply and highlight the continuing need to uphold the values of diversity, inclusion, and equity.

As a mother, how do I begin to have these conversations with my young daughter and grown boys? The reality is we <u>must</u> have these conversations with our children. We know that if classes were being held in person in our schools this week, our teachers would be supporting students, answering their questions, and educating them on how we can do better as a society. Unfortunately, we are unable to support those conversations today with at-home learning. Here are some important things to consider at home with your child:

- Don't be afraid to talk to your child about what's happened. It's ok to share your feelings and experiences.
- Promote a sense of safety by acknowledging the racism and violence, and ask your child if they have any questions or concerns that you could talk about together.
- Use age-appropriate language, for example, talk to elementary-school-aged children about the importance of being a good friend and valuing each other's differences.
- Remind them that there is good in the world model for your child.
- Share ideas about how your child can respond to racism that they may have encountered.

I have included some resources in this email for you to use with your child. I hope you find them helpful tools to aid in discussions with your family.

As the Superior School District, it is our responsibility to create a sense of urgency and accountability for addressing a system that historically has not supported all citizens. Change starts with our children. Change starts with education. In the last year, the Superior School District has adopted a new district strategic plan where equity becomes the foundation of all the decisions we make as a district. Our school board and district leaders use this plan to improve outcomes for all our children. As a school board, superintendent and staff we recognize and

acknowledge our privilege. We make you this promise, we are committed to work even harder to do our part to stop the injustice and realize our school district's vision: In Superior, ALL means ALL...every student, every day.

Sincerely,

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Amy Starzecki District Administrator, School District of Superior

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Len Albrecht President of the Board of Education, School District of Superior

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. -Martin Luther King, Jr.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES: <u>Raising Race Conscious Children</u> <u>Racism and Violence: Using Your Power as a Parent to Support Children Aged Two to Five</u> <u>Resources for Parents: Uplifting Youth Through Healthy Communication About Race</u>

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MISSION: The School District of Superior will ensure all students have the knowledge and skills for living, learning, and working successfully. VISION: In Superior, all means all ... Every student, every day!

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