



Waterford Township
School District

Brenda Harring, EdD/CI
Superintendent

Daniel J. Fox, CPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business

Julie C. Lyons
Director of Elementary Education

June 4, 2020

Waterford Township School district Community,

Given the current state of civil unrest, I feel compelled to write to you in an effort to do my part in uniting our country. They often say it takes a village; now more than ever, our school community needs to come together to embrace and protect our children during these unprecedented times. In the last several months, our children have had to endure a global pandemic where their teachers, friends, and everything normal was torn away from them with no warning, only to be thrown yet another unsettling chain of events with the death of George Floyd.

Children are our most precious resource for they secure our country's future productivity. Regardless of academic ability, economic status, or ethnicity, each and every one of them deserve every opportunity to prosper in this great country. My heart is heavy thinking that I may have some students that will not have the same opportunity as others due to circumstance or even the mere color of their skin. As a country, we must do better.

During this unsettling time, children are watching — watching how the adults respond. As the mother of two young men, I am always reminded of the importance that my example sets. As a Caucasian female, I find myself reflecting on the example I set now more than ever. Together we can make a difference, one child at a time.

Now is the time to come together as a school community to support our impressionable youth — to lead by example, demonstrating empathy and integrity. Waterford Township School District has already begun this work by providing our staff with social emotional training and creating trauma sensitive environments. We will continue with professional development in restorative practice and Equity. Our work is far from finished, but it is a beginning.

I have included two resources below for you to support our efforts and partner with us to ensure all children grow up in a world that is culturally responsive to each and every one of them.

- [5 TIPS FOR TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT HATE INCIDENTS](#)
- [Talking to kids about hate in media](#)

In closing, if your child is struggling with any of the recent events and you are having a difficult time finding the words/resources to support, Waterford Township School District is here to provide assistance. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 856-767-4200 ext. 2010 or bharring@wtsd.org. If I cannot personally assist you, I will find someone that can.

Be safe and be well!

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda Harring
Superintendent of Schools