

June 1, 2020

Dear DCPS Students and Families,

DC Public Schools (DCPS) stands with our community in grieving the recent tragic deaths of George Floyd, a Black man in Minnesota, and Tony McDade, a Black Trans man in Florida. I share in the hurt, confusion, and anger about what is happening in the District and around the nation.

Our community will not tolerate any actions or policies that sanction or perpetuate racism and racial violence. Now more than ever, we must turn attention to our ray of hope, our children.

DCPS and the District will continue to support our young people by having courageous conversations with them around race to cultivate a brighter future. As a support to our families who are grappling with extremely difficult events and engaging in complex, challenging conversations, DCPS is providing access to anti-racism resources for you and your family. As our community navigates this moment together, I encourage you to take time to reflect, listen, and engage with one another.

Event: Talking about race with your child

As a part of our DCPS Parent University series, we are offering 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.

Resource: Have a courageous conversation

We believe in creating brave spaces to have conversations about race with our families, friends, and colleagues. If you don’t know where to start, please consider the following prompts from our Equity Strategy and Programming Team inspired by our work over the past two years with [Courageous Conversation™](#) to begin your discussion:

- **Believing:** What do you believe based on what’s happened?
- **Thinking:** What questions do you have? What thoughts come up?
- **Feeling:** How do you feel? What emotions are coming up for you?
- **Doing:** What do you plan to do next? What action have you already taken?

These resources are just a few of what is available to families, and I hope you will join me at [Wednesday’s Parent University](#) virtual session to learn more.

Our schools are a constant in our lives – places of learning, joy, and friendship. Our schools stand proud in our neighborhoods, welcoming all who walk through the doors to be their true selves and allow



students to be extraordinary. Our schools are also a refuge, a place where students and families can find the support they need for their wellbeing.

Our presence, purpose, and commitment is a constant and does not change with the end of the academic year. It's with this conviction that DCPS' teachers and staff lead each and every day.

In support and solidarity,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools