



## CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Kevin D. Case  
Superintendent of Schools

*Opening Minds ~ Transforming Lives*

June 3, 2020

Dear Canton Community Members:

The COVID-19 pandemic over the last several months has greatly impacted our Canton Public Schools and the overall community. Our community has come together to support one another during these challenging times.

These challenging times continue with the protests and riots taking place across the country as a result of the tragic death of George Floyd. Personally and professionally, I am troubled by these national events.

One of our guiding beliefs in the Canton Public Schools is that *“ALL students will flourish in a safe and healthy learning environment that values differences while respecting culture, abilities, and perspectives.”*

In order to prepare our students to become productive members of our diverse local, national, and global communities, remaining silent on these current events is not an option. We need to openly discuss these issues with our children and students. Our social studies teachers in Grades 7-12 will be connecting with their students to discuss these recent events.

As you may be aware, the Canton Public Schools has engaged in work toward achieving equity in our schools and community. The goal of this work is to build capacity around equity with administrators, teachers, staff, students, and their community. Administrators and staff have received cultural proficiency training. Our curriculum and supporting resources support diversity and cultural awareness. We realize, however, that there is much more work to be done.

As we continue to focus our efforts on equity, we will be establishing a task force to help guide our work in this area.

I have included suggested resources to assist in engaging in a dialogue with your children about racism, hate, violence, and other tragic events that our children/students may hear about or see on the news.

Together, as a community, we can ensure that our schools create learning environments where each student in every classroom feels valued, respected, and safe to learn and grow.

Thank you for your partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Case  
Superintendent of Schools

## RESOURCES:

[Teaching Tolerance](#) - Tolerance.org, Race & Ethnicity

[“Avoiding Racial Equity Detours”](#) - Paul Gorski, EdChange

[“The Critical Work of Racial Identity”](#) - Dr. Daren Graves presentation to CSDE

State Education Resource Center’s (SERC) [“Equity in Education: A Transformational Approach to Teaching and Learning”](#)

The National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement developed a guide -- [Talking to Kids about Tragedies \(Such as Shootings and Terror Attacks\) in the News](#) - which helps explain for parents and guardians the importance of discussing the event with children and helps inform parents of common questions children ask in the aftermath of tragic events.

[Compilation of Racial Identity Models](#) - Racial Equity Tools

[“A Look at Implicit Bias and Microaggressions in the Classroom”](#) - Rick Wormeli, AMLE

[“How White Parents Can Use Media to Raise Anti-Racist Kids”](#) - Sierra Filucci, Common Sense Media

The National Education Association (NEA) has several online resources for teachers, students and parents to help engage in a dialogue about racism, hate and violence which can be accessed and found on NEA’s website [here](#).

[Resources for Addressing Trauma, Violence, and Grief](#) is a compendium produced by CSDE staff. Please consult this guide for links to additional resources.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to prepare independent, productive, respectful and responsible citizens who contribute to an ever changing world. We pursue continuous improvement while honoring our strong educational legacy and traditions. We unite with families and the community to provide challenging educational experiences that promote the intellectual, physical, social and emotional potential of our students.