



Renaissance Middle School

INNOVATIVE EDUCATION:

The Mission of Renaissance Middle School is to create a collaborative community with project-based learning that emphasizes the strengths of all students.

June 3rd, 2020

A Message of Unity

The day after Blackout Tuesday, I know we are all still watching the headlines. Our nation and the world are trying to understand how yet another unjust tragedy rooted in **systemic racism** has shaken our **humanity**. Unfortunately, we have repeatedly witnessed these issues of **inequality** and with seemingly no intervention to bring justice to cases of police brutality and attacks on people of color.

As educators we must embrace our responsibility to guide our youngest **with a humble understanding** of our history as we address the dark truths of systemic racism. The murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and all those before them, are a call to end injustice and a cry to make our voices heard.

We can no longer be silent observers.

In our roles, as professionals, we have an obligation to **be the voice of change**. We serve as role models for our students. We must engage them as valuable members of our community as we demand **change and justice** for people of color.

Over the past few days during this civil unrest I have seen email communications from students to their teachers expressing their confusion or angst with the events of the past week. We have been contacted by parents who are not sure if they should or how to host this conversation with their children. The staff has held moments of silence and had healthy conversations. Many teachers have implored meaningful approaches to support their students through check-in questions, lessons and Google Meet conversations.

Next week Renaissance will send out information from our **Restorative Justice Team** about live Google Meetings for each grade level on the topic of systemic racism, processing these recent events, and opening the dialogue to how we can support people of color and our ability to be an upstander. The time is now for change and we must create a safe platform for students to become the change they want to see in the world. Family members are welcome to join their children in these conversations and we encourage conversations and actions to be continued in your homes and at large.

The school MUST be here as a resource for our community. Let us stand together and be the force that facilitates change in our world. Please see resources below to help start or continue the conversation at home.

[Talking to Children After Racial Incidents](#)

[Talking with Children About Police Brutality and Protests](#)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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