

June 4, 2020

Dear CWC School Community,

On Tuesday evening, students in our community organized a peaceful march to demonstrate their outrage at the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and to voice their commitment to creating a society that is genuinely inclusive and anti-racist.

The Board of Education is proud of our students' dedication to equity and justice. With them, we condemn these horrific acts of racist violence, and we share their commitment to creating a better world. Our school district mission is to ensure that all of our students achieve their greatest potential as lifetime self-directed learners, critical and creative thinkers, and responsible, productive citizens. Our [district core values](#) likewise articulate our vision for equity, inclusion, and the emotional and physical safety of all of our students. We view our diversity as a strength, and believe that all of our students belong.

Our [Comprehensive Equity Plan](#) outlines some of the ways we have begun to address these issues, and will continue to address them in the years to come.

On Tuesday, Dr. Heinegg shared several reflections and resources which are rooted in our [district core values](#). We re-post them below.

-The Caldwell - West Caldwell Board of Education

Dialogue and Continuous Learning

This is an important opportunity for parents to engage in dialogue with their children, both about the particular demonstration in our community and about the broader issues of justice, equity, and race. Experts suggest entering into these discussions not necessarily with an assumption of having all of the answers, but rather with a willingness to join children in developing a respectful understanding of others.

Resources:

American Psychological Association: [Healthy communication about race](#)

National Geographic: [Talking to children about race](#)

Teaching Tolerance: [Beyond the Golden Rule](#)

ADL: [The Power of Children's Literature](#)

Community/Civic Engagement

This is a time of deep pain and struggle in our nation, but it is also a teachable moment for us as educators and parents. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." We want to ensure that civic engagement is responsible and respectful, and that our young people develop the ability to think critically about important community/civic issues.

Resources:

The Learning Network has provided this [article with discussion questions](#) for young people in grades 6 - 12

PBS Newshour [news for students and teachers](#) in grades 6 - 12

Safety

Keeping our students physically and emotionally safe is a central aspect of our work as a district and for our community as a whole.

Resources:

Latest CDC COVID - 19 guidelines: [How to protect yourself and others](#)

Help Guide: [Helping Children Cope with Traumatic Stress](#)