

Dear Hatfield Families,

The past week-plus has been a tumultuous time for our country. For Black and Brown families, these feelings and realities have been recurring for hundreds of years. As one of my professors eloquently wrote, "There is a long history of racism in our society and the ways that it worked hand-in-hand with the development of our public school system in the U.S.; on this there is no shortage of evidence. This is a part of our nation's DNA."

As an educational leader, father, and member of the community, these conversations and topics cannot be avoided. We all represent agents of change. I encourage you to speak with your children. I welcome our teachers to hold discussions and share their feelings alongside colleagues, in addition to with our students. I echo the sentiment of those disenfranchised and privileged alike that "Silence is Compliance." We must become more accustomed to having uncomfortable conversations. There is no such concept of being color-blind. We can utilize ongoing social injustice to teach and present cultural competency concerns within our nation in age-appropriate ways.

Hatfield Elementary represents an extremely diverse school. We are proud of our families and we strive to create shared experiences and learn from unique cultures and backgrounds. We are not perfect, but our teachers have immense hearts and prioritize coming from an empathetic perspective. As our principal, I acknowledge that I have not lived racially-driven experiences. My prior teaching and administrative experience was in the most diverse city in the United States -- Jersey City, NJ. My ongoing academic study at the doctoral level is in a program focused on diversity and equity. Yet, my professional resume and scholarly endeavors do not mean that I understand. I need to listen more and learn from the complexities surrounding our past/present in order to better shape the future for our children. And it would be ignorant for me to not acknowledge that my life's path has been advantaged by being white, as well as male.

My K-12 North Penn educational experience as a child and teenager shaped my life profoundly, hence my desire to return to an area and where I can do the same for others day-by-day. No, I do not have the answers, but I pledge to be part of the solution versus the problem. In setting high expectations for all learners and reducing, then eliminating, disproportionate access to educational opportunities, I am confident our staff will continue to put forth the passion and energy to equitably educate our Hawks. Our families deserve nothing less!

Earlier this week, North Penn's Superintendent, Dr. Dietrich; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Rufo; and Director of Curriculum and Equity (Hatfield's former Principal), Dr. Waters; all shared their thoughts with our district. I implore you to read their words. I ask that you consider volunteering your time by joining the North Penn Cultural Proficiency Parent Sub-Committee by completing the form here: [Parent Interest](#)

[Form - Cultural Proficiency and Anti-Racism Group](#). Undoubtedly, having a presence from Hatfield can positively impact the conversation across such a large school district!

Lastly, some of our Elementary Guidance Counselors have recommended the hyperlinked resources below for educating and supporting our children during this time. Please spend some time reviewing these materials and determine how best to engage your child(ren),

[Race & Racism Toolkit](#)

[Video: "Something Happened in our Town"](#)

[CNN/Sesame Street partner to talk with kids about ending racism](#) (10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 6).

Educationally,

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Principal