

Burris Community,

Yesterday, our leaders at Teachers College shared an important message regarding racial violence and a commitment to promoting peace and equity. We echo these sentiments; please read the following excerpt from their message:

We are devastated by the brutal killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sadly, we have to add Mr. Floyd's name to the list of others who have been killed, including Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tanisha Anderson, Sandra Bland, Rekia Boyd, Philando Castile, Terence Crutcher, Oscar Grant, Freddie Gray, Botham Jean, Corey Jones, Trayvon Benjamin Martin, and Walter Scott, among others. Our hearts are breaking for their families, and for all of us who are suffering because of the killing of Black people.

We condemn violence and hatred of any kind. Each and every one of us must take a stand against racial violence to meet the needs of all our people and become a nation where everyone can thrive.

We understand how this tragic event, and other acts of racial violence, can cause communities of color to feel vulnerable. Let us make time to support each other as a community and listen with open hearts and minds to one another. We must explore how our current moment is situated within a history of struggle and survival, organizing and resistance, and how we can work toward a future that is equitable, inclusive, and justice-directed.

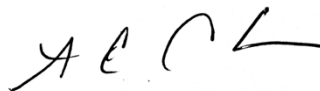
As our mission promises, Burris Laboratory School fosters a culture of respect and trust; we value safety for all our students, and we take pride in our efforts to build a welcoming community that celebrates difference. Our faculty and staff will continue to model and practice this commitment through daily interactions with students and one another. At the same time, we find our nation in the midst of a defining moment that has sparked the need for institutional reflection to identify areas for growth in our responsibility to prepare students to influence and engage in a culturally diverse world. We will have necessary and often hard conversations with students, families, faculty, and staff, listen carefully and continue to learn so we can foster a climate of inclusivity, equity and access in a welcoming, supportive and safe atmosphere.

To continue our efforts, in collaboration with Teachers College, we will thoughtfully review and develop curriculum, classroom libraries, and Media Center materials that support an understanding and appreciation of our diverse society. Additionally, we will offer support to those students who are hurting, questioning and seeking clarity during this troubling time.

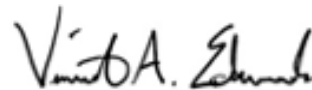
Burris Laboratory School stands with all members of our community and asks that you join us in promoting justice, peace, and equity in our school, in our city, and in our world.



Dawn Miller
Principal



Abigail Comber
Assistant Principal



Vince Edwards
Assistant Principal