



EASTCONN

Celebrating 40 Years 1980~2020

Dear EASTCONN Students and Families,

June 3, 2020

This week has brought a renewed focus on two of our nation's greatest challenges: racism and social injustice. The recent killing of George Floyd has caused emotional responses, ranging from pain and anger, to deep sadness. We join our fellow human beings in grieving his death and those of many other black Americans. Our EASTCONN schools and programs condemn racism and prejudice and are committed to the pursuit of equity and justice.

As educators, we recognize that change begins with listening, engaging in hard conversations and understanding implicit bias about race that causes social injustice. We understand we have an obligation to learn and lead these conversations.

As an EASTCONN school community we are committed to addressing and contributing to the dismantling of racism and social injustice. But, as with all great challenges, we cannot do it alone. As we work to end this year, and look to the next, we will be deepening conversations and professional learning to address issues of equity, implicit bias and racism with students, staff and families.

We pride ourselves on developing our student's capacity to respect and understand others, meet challenges with the future in mind, and resolve conflict in meaningful and lasting ways, shaping and contributing to a better world. During this time of unrest, we have an opportunity to advance change. We ask your partnership to assist your child in making sense of what is going on in our country today. Below are several resources that can assist you with this important conversation.

<https://coolmompicks.com/blog/2019/05/08/tips-for-hard-talks-parents-have-with-kids/>

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. <http://www.nea.org/home/71339.htm>

In the words of Dr. Maya Angelo, *"Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future and renders the present inaccessible."* EASTCONN schools are committed to acting on Mahatma Gandhi's words: *"We must be the change we wish to see in the world."*

With hope for our future,

Diane Dugas
EASTCONN Director of Leading and Learning