



Haddonfield School District
One Lincoln Avenue
Haddonfield, NJ 08033
856-429-7510 X6201

June 2, 2020

Dear Haddonfield Families:

During these very uncertain times, we join all of America in the outrage over the unnecessary death of George Floyd in Minnesota. We join you in trying to make sense of this injustice both for ourselves and for our children. We join you in trying to make sense of today's America. Concepts like systemic racism, marginalization, the pyramid of hate, and the escalation of bias are all topics we are trying to wrap our minds around to understand and to mitigate. And that's not just today's story.

With all that is going on in the streets of Philadelphia and on the sidewalks of America, our concern as school district leaders in Haddonfield is with the trauma this causes. All of us watching the news on television are awestruck at the anger coursing through America's bloodstream today. It is because of the shock and fear that we are experiencing, and because of the shock and fear our children are experiencing, that we write you today.

We are writing to say that it's important to return to our core beliefs as human beings and as Americans. There is a genuine goodness in the people of this country – and in their resilience, America should be and is a beacon of light to the rest of the world. The desire to achieve the American dream is as strong today as it was in the past. That's a great place to begin the conversation with our children.

Let's join the Haddonfield Memorial High School Peer Bias Leaders and administration in an [evening of healing](#). Healing is essential for all Americans to move forward together, to grow in respect for and understanding of one another.

In working with trauma, it is important as parents and educators to support our students with the realization of the trauma, to recognize signs of trauma, to appropriately respond to the trauma, and to avoid re-traumatizing. To that end, we have listed some resources for you to use at home to do just that.

Most Recent ADL Publication:

[George Floyd, Racism and Law Enforcement](#)

Additional Resources to Help Facilitate a Dialogue:

[Chooseorg.org](#)

[Moving Towards Healing: Drexel University Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice](#)

[Seven Tools for Handling Traumatic Stress: National Alliance on Mental Illness](#)

[Talking to Kids about Race: National Geographic](#)

[How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism: NBC News Learn](#)

[Build Your Stack: Affirming Black Boys Outside the Context of Police Brutality: NCTE](#)

[31 Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism and Resistance: EmbraceRace](#)

[Talking to Children about Tragedies & Other News Events: American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[Discussing Hate & Violence with Children: ADL](#)

[How to Talk to Your Children about Protests and Racism: CNN Health](#)

["Raising White Kids" author on How White Parents can Talk about Race: NPR](#)

[How to Talk to Kids about Racism, Protests and Injustice: Today](#)

[Values Affirmation - What We Care About: Character Lab](#)

We know that, as a community, we strive to be a welcoming hometown to everyone residing here and to everyone who visits our historic main street, Kings Highway. It's what made everyone decide to move here and raise their children here. It's what makes us so proud of our community, of our students and parents and educators. Together, we need to continue to hold these important conversations and to do the work required to grow and improve.

We can, and must, do better. For our world. For our country. For all of our children.

Sincerely,

Mr. Adam Sangillo, Board President

Mr. Chuck Klaus, Incoming Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Larry Mussoline, Superintendent of Schools