June 4, 2020

Dear Catasauqua Area School District Families,

I want to acknowledge the range of emotions that our students, staff, and families may be experiencing as a result of the recent tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. These tragic events illustrate just how much work remains for all of us in creating an inclusive environment for our students and our community. As a safe and supportive school community, we value everyone and believe that our differences make us stronger and more resilient. Let us stand in solidarity against any and all acts of racism, disrespect and inequitable treatment of persons of color.

Our staff is available for you and your students. If you would like to talk with someone, please contact one of our School Counselors or School Psychologists. They are willing to speak with you and provide valuable resources. Topics surrounding equity and inclusion may be difficult conversations to have with children, but it is important for these conversations to take place. Please refer to the below links for resources and best practices related to equity and inclusion.

- Beyond the Golden Rule: A Parent’s Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice (Southern Poverty Law Center)
- How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism (NBC News Learn)
- Preparing Young Children for the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities into the Classroom (National Association for the Education of Young Children)
- Resources for Talking about Race, Racism and Racialized Violence with Kids (Center for Racial Justice Education)
- Social Justice (National Association of School Psychologists)
- Talking About Race (Smithsonian)
- Talking Race with Young Children (National Public Radio)
- Talking to Kids About Discrimination (American Psychological Association)
- Anti-Racism for Kids: An Age by Age Guide for Fighting Hate (Explore Parents)
- Supporting Vulnerable Students in Stressful Times: Tips for Parents (National Association of School Psychologists)

Additionally, please know that The Catasauqua Area School District will continue to improve our own equity, diversity, and inclusion work, and we will continue to improve our efforts to ensure that our staff, our curriculum, and our instruction are a reflection of the community that we serve. The Catasauqua Area School District will continue to provide a safe and positive learning environment for all students and remain #CattyStrong

Sincerely,
Robert J. Spengler
Superintendent