



## Bethany Public School District

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June 2, 2020

Dear BCS Community,

Recent events in our nation over the past week are unsettling and can often leave parents wondering how they can support their children and their community members. We want to reassure you that Bethany Community School is here to provide students, staff, and families support as they process what has transpired and watch our country grapple with racial inequities.

As with any difficult conversation, a dialogue around race and racism, especially with young children, requires all participants to exercise courage and empathy. For our students, it is essential that we as adults model the key elements of an empathetic conversation: respect each person's truth, listen with your heart, and share just enough so you can hear other's views.


If we were in school, we would have the opportunity to come together as a community to have such a dialogue and support each other. In the coming months, we will consider how we as a community can listen to each other's experiences, reflect on those experiences, and be more equitable in an attempt to continually learn from each other. The more we understand how our experiences differ, the more we can focus on the necessary personal and collective growth necessary to ensure that everyone in our school and community feels heard and valued.

Please remember that despite social distancing, our administrators, school counselor, and school psychologist, are available if you or your child would like to speak with someone. To schedule a check-in with either Mrs. Nusom or Mrs. Spagnoletti, please email them directly to schedule an appointment: [mnusom@bethany-ed.org](mailto:mnusom@bethany-ed.org) or [tspagnoletti@bethany-ed.org](mailto:tspagnoletti@bethany-ed.org).

There are many resources that are available to families and we share with you only a few. Starting a discussion about such a challenging topic with children or adults can be difficult. Having that conversation, being vulnerable, and modeling empathy is a strong first step to helping students understand those who may appear to be different from themselves. The attached excerpt from a longer article provides a framework for parents to talk to kids of varying ages about protests and racism: [How to talk to your children about protests and racism](#). We also know the power of stories to spark curiosity and jump start conversations. To that end, we share with you a list of books with diverse characters that tell stories of experiences with racism and social justice. You may find that here: [Common Sense Media](#). Yet one more resource for parents is from the American School Counselor Association. There is a wealth of information and resources here: [ASCA Race and Equity Resources](#).

Even though we are apart, we are still a community with core values of compassion, kindness, empathy, and respect. We honor these values and continue to be here to support our children and families.

Sincerely,

  
Colleen Murray  
Superintendent

  
Kai Byrd

Director of Special Services,  
Curriculum, and Instruction

  
Tom Reed-Swale

Principal