



**Minnetonka Public Schools**  
Innovate. Inspire. Excel.



Dear Minnetonka Schools Community,

The events of the past six days in Minnesota seem unbelievable. Sadly, they are all too real. The tragic, senseless killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis last Monday has led us, along with our entire nation, to wrestle with the serious and underlying racism that is alive in communities throughout the U.S. today.

We hear the sad and angry voices raised in protest, the heart-wrenching grief of those who are oppressed and those who have fought oppression for decades and the increasing chaos and despair communities are experiencing after a week of rioting, looting and arson. I know the death of Mr. Floyd and the violence we are seeing in Minneapolis, St. Paul and in several other suburbs of the Twin Cities—as well as throughout the country—is horrific and disturbing. Many of you are, I'm sure, grappling with how to respond, how to help and how to work through the upset together.

Today, I join our city and state leaders in asking that if you are in a city that has imposed a curfew, that you honor that curfew and remain home. We need to keep our students and families safe.

As a school community, I will say that we have struggled with issues of inclusivity. And, while I believe we have taken strong steps in the past year to work through these challenges, I am committed to doing even more for our students and District community to model and to teach acceptance and inclusivity. The District has zero tolerance for discrimination of any kind against others based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation. We remain sincere in our efforts to provide all students with a safe, welcoming environment in which to learn, grow and flourish.

Though we remain in e-learning for the last two weeks of school, please know that our staff, teachers and administrators are here to support students in any way we can. We have a [network of resources](#) available to families to support students' mental health and well-being. The Minnesota Department of Education has provided [resources](#) for how to talk as a family about these tragic events. To our staff, please remember we have an [Employee Assistance Program](#) that can help with a variety of needs.

We are a strong, tight-knit community, and we will emerge from these challenging times even stronger.

Be safe and well.  
Dennis Peterson  
Superintendent of Schools

