



Administrative Office
8701 Holmes, Kansas City MO 64131
Telephone: (816) 349-3300

A Fully Accredited, Missouri A+ School District...

April 21, 2021

Dear Center Community,

We shared the message on the second page with our community on Monday, June 1, 2020 following the death of George Floyd who was killed last May outside of a Minneapolis convenience store. Yesterday, Tuesday, April 21, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter by a jury for his role in the murder of George Floyd.

As you recall, the death of Floyd, and the video that showed Chauvin, kneeling on Floyd's neck for about nine minutes, became a catalyst for a racial and social justice movement. During our initial statement to our community, we stated the Center School District's commitment to "continuing to put an end to racism in our community. We believe every act of racism or discrimination under any circumstance erodes the great strides we have made in our school community. Our mission reads, All students will demonstrate high achievement, character, and teamwork in a diverse community. Together, we achieve! To fully realize our mission, we must continue to work together to show solidarity and stand against racism and hate in all its forms."

We now want to reaffirm our commitment to show continued solidarity and our strong stance against racism and hate in all forms. It is important that we collectively work to create an environment committed to the fundamental principles of equity, non-discrimination, and anti-racism outside our school walls as well. Please know as a District, we are prioritizing race and equity. The Center School District, in collaboration with the Center Education Foundation is hosting a CSD Community Book Study. The book is titled "Unconscious Bias in Schools: A Developmental Approach to Exploring Race and Racism." While participating in the book study, participants have been able to increase their knowledge and understanding of race, equity and biases that impact our schools and community. The District has also committed to implementing a race and equity trainer to work with staff beginning next year. We understand we are in the infancy phases of our work to address racial equity within the education system and realize there is still a great deal of work to be done to fully support our students, families, and community.

Our core values state: All students will demonstrate high expectations for student success, safe and respectful schools, positive relationships and diversity in our schools and community. To encourage these values inside our schools, we need our community and nation to support similar values.

Our core values will continue to guide our work as we move forward to bring an end to systemic racism. We encourage our Center School District family to uphold meaningful and peaceful ways to stand in unity against racial injustices, be kind to one another, embrace one another for all of our differences and most importantly be careful and be safe.

Our goal remains with more respect, understanding and the willingness to continue to learn, together we can and will achieve an equitable community where we all feel represented, heard, and supported.

Sincerely,

The Entire Center Leadership Team and Board of Education



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A Fully Accredited, Missouri A+ School District...

June 1, 2020

Dear Center School District Family,

Last week, George Floyd was killed while in police custody in Minneapolis. Ahmaud Arbery was chased and gunned down while jogging in South Georgia; and Breonna Taylor was shot and killed by police in her Kentucky home. These are the most recent heartbreaking examples of racial injustice. Our hearts go out to our nation and our Center School District family as we mourn the senseless loss of life due to all forms of violence.

At Center, our core values state: All students will demonstrate high expectations for student success, safe and respectful schools, positive relationships and diversity in our schools and community. To encourage these values inside our schools, we need our community and nation to support similar values. We need to collectively work to create an environment committed to the fundamental principles of equity, non-discrimination, and anti-racism outside our school walls as well.

We are proud to serve the children and families of Kansas City. Unfortunately, these events are occurring in the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and we encourage our students, families, and community to remain well and safe.

At Center, we are committed to continuing to put an end to racism in our community. We believe every act of racism or discrimination under any circumstance erodes the great strides we have made in our school community. Our mission reads, "All students will demonstrate high achievement, character, and teamwork in a diverse community. Together, we achieve!" To fully realize our mission, we must continue to work together to show solidarity and stand against racism and hate in all its forms.

We encourage our Center School District family to continue to uphold meaningful and peaceful ways to stand in unity against racial injustices. We ask that you please be kind to one another, embrace one another for all of our differences and most importantly be careful and be safe.

Our goal is with more respect, understanding and the willingness to continue to learn, together we can and will achieve.

Sincerely, The Entire Center Leadership Team and Board of Education