

GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL

300 GARRISON FOREST ROAD • OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

Dear Parents and Families,

We, like many of you, have been deeply saddened by the increase in reported violence and verbal attacks against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, and especially women, in the United States, most recently the horrific shootings in Atlanta. As an international boarding and day school, our community includes students from across the region and across the globe, and we stand with our many, many students, parents, faculty members and alumnae from Asia and of Asian descent. We know that there is a long history of racism and acts of hatred towards the AAPI community in the United States, and we abhor this as well as the increase in violence in the past year. During this particularly troubling and fearful time, we support our AAPI community members who have been impacted by these actions.

We stand against that violence and prejudice in our daily work with our students, and in our strong Statement of Respect, which reads in part:

We recognize the dignity and worth of all individuals. To protect their rights, we confront bias, prejudice and discrimination. Garrison Forest School does not condone any behavior which is inconsistent with these tenets.

Garrison Forest School fully denounces any acts of discrimination, bullying, harassment, and hate crimes against AAPI individuals or any individuals. As noted in the letter we sent out before Spring Break, we have devoted significant time this year to our work with students and faculty members to promote inclusivity, civil discourse, and community connection and engagement. We remain focused on this ongoing work which lies at the heart of our commitment to be a caring, supportive and anti-racist community where all of our members have a sense of belonging, safety, and love; a community that supports the well-being of everyone on our campus and beyond.

Many of the resources we have shared in past communications, [available here](#), can be helpful in navigating conversations about this with children of all ages. You can also find specific resources for addressing anti-Asian hate here:

[Stop AAPI Hate](#)
[Asian American Federation Resources](#)

We will continue to add to our list of resources as more become available. In the meantime, I hope you will reach out if you have any specific questions or concerns.

Take care,



Chris Hughes
Head of School



Carolyn Lewis
Director, Community Life and
Inclusion



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