

# GARRISON FOREST SCHOOL

300 GARRISON FOREST ROAD • OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117

Dear Parents and Families,

As our academic year comes to a close, and we begin to look forward to a hopefully restful summer, we also know that members of our community have been greatly impacted by recent escalation of attacks and hateful incidents against the Jewish community. We are all deeply troubled and appalled as reports of anti-Semitism, harassment and violence have continued to rise all across the country, and we would like to reiterate our support for our Jewish students, families, alumnae, faculty/staff members and broader community.

We fully denounce any acts of discrimination, bullying, harassment, and hate crimes against Jewish individuals or any individuals. As we have stated in the past, we stand firm to supporting the wellness of all students and our 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.*

Our goal as a school is to foster a supportive 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. As these events continue to unfold, we are here to provide resources or support to any students who would like help processing these events or their own emotions and thoughts. Your child's divisional counselor is an excellent resource for them.

In addition, the resources below may be helpful in talking to your child about hate crimes, violence or traumatic experiences:

- Talking to Children About Violence ([Info sheet](#) and [infographic](#)), National Association of School Psychologists
- [Talking to Children About Hate Crimes and Anti-Semitism](#), The National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- [Tools for Addressing Anti-Semitism, Intolerance and Bias](#), The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- [Anti-Semitic Attacks in the US](#), The Washington Post, 5/14/21

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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