



April 14, 2021

Dear Lawrenceville Students,

The news cycle in recent weeks has been as tragic as it has been unrelenting. We have been responding to ongoing violence against Asian Americans, multiple mass shootings, and now we confront the killing of Daunte Wright at the hands of a police officer in a Minneapolis suburb, just miles from where Derek Chauvin is currently on trial for the murder of George Floyd.

As members of our community absorb this latest senseless tragedy, the Dean of Students Office, in consultation with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Student Council, is hosting an open community gathering this evening, 6:45-7:45 p.m., in GCAD. Community members are invited to come together for mutual support, to share perspectives on recent and ongoing events, and to express solidarity, prayer, and condolence for the Wright family.

Our strength as a community is most apparent during such moments of tragedy when we draw together and show each other care and empathy. It is my hope that your colleagues and peers are a source of strength and support through times of personal and societal challenge, and that campus offers a sense of comfort and belonging. At the same time, these are also moments to demonstrate our resolute determination to stand as one in opposition to injustice and oppression.

Students, please know that you have many resources at your disposal: your Head of House, advisor, coach, spiritual leader, and teachers are all available to you, as are the School's counseling staff. Employees are encouraged to reach out to HR for support services, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs will be compiling a discussion guide for classroom teachers to engage in productive discussions around events of hurt and harm.

Finally, to this end, we continue to monitor the progress of the Chauvin trial. We understand that reliving a tragedy in this way causes tremendous grief and anxiety to resurface, and we fully anticipate that the verdict has the potential to further exacerbate this, regardless of the outcome. We are preparing resources and spaces for reflection or contemplation as the conclusion of the trial approaches.

Sincerely,

Mr. Murray

Stephen S. Murray H'54 '55 '65 '16 P'16 '21  
The Shelby Cullom Davis '26 Head of School