



Genesee Community Charter School
at the Rochester Museum & Science Center

657 East Avenue · Rochester, NY 14607 · (585) 697-1960 ·
www.GCCSchool.org

"I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were only distant memories. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust...We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better."

— Thurgood Marshall

May 31, 2020

Dear GCCS Community,

Our hearts and minds are full of many emotions as we cross a terrain that not everyone is familiar with, yet we know many members of our community feel it every day. We write to you today to tell you that if you are feeling anger, fear, sadness, grief, confusion, or anxiousness about George Floyd's murder and/or the protests, riots, looting, and grieving around the country, in Rochester, or in your backyards, your feelings and actions are valid and come from your truth. We want you to know that you are not alone in this truly polarizing time. The GCCS community sees you, is here for you, ready to listen, ready to act.

While at GCCS, our students learn an important skill - to actively listen in order to seek understanding from another's perspective. As two white women at the helm of this community, we know that we cannot say that we truly understand what our families of color are experiencing right now or have ever experienced in their lifetime. But, we can listen, we can learn from one another, and we can act as allies and accomplices to promote social justice. As Thurgood Marshall said, "[we] have no choice but to do better."

Our school was founded on a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We have worked hard to break down systemic racism and have focused our attention on building relationships across difference, yet we know there is a lot more work to be done at GCCS and in America. In this time of isolation and social distancing, we want to offer several resources to support you and your family in any way you need at this time.

1. We will dedicate our Mindful Moments time to discuss the Zones of Regulation within the context of these experiences. Participation in Mindful Moments is optional and based on parent's discretion.
2. Tomorrow evening (Monday, June 1st) from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., we are hosting a Zoom discussion circle to process our thoughts, feelings, and emotions within the adult

community. Our social worker and parent representatives from the Board of Trustees will all be on the call to support and facilitate the discussion.

3. Teachers will be discussing additional resources we will have in place during the next few weeks to support your discussions with children at home and "in school." We will share this information with you in the coming days. However, we also know that we don't have all of the answers and therefore if you learn of a resource or can offer an insight that could be helpful to our community, please don't hesitate to share it with us or share it on the class Facebook pages. This is the time to share, connect, and listen to our community.

We are a community of compassion and in this time of crisis, we need to come together for our children's future.

Please take care and stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Shannon Hillman, School Leader and
Michele Hannagan, President of the Board of Trustees

Genesee Community Charter School
657 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
www.gccschool.org
(585) 271-4552 ext.460