



April 30, 2021

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

The recent video circulating online is deeply distressing to our entire community. Hateful acts toward other human beings are unacceptable, and racism of any kind is counter to the principles of the Southern Lehigh School District and to our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

While the discipline powers of public school districts are limited to events occurring at school sponsored activities, public schools have a responsibility to engage educational programming that supports the overall mission, vision, and values of the institution. This recent event highlights the need to continue and strengthen our educational commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and to engage in direct and open conversations and learning.

The priority of the Southern Lehigh School District continues to remain supporting our students socially, emotionally, and academically. We continue to offer a variety of comprehensive behavioral health supports that feature both group and individual counseling for all students.

As such, any student struggling with these issues and needing additional support should reach out directly to a school counselor or building administrator. Families can always utilize the [Request for Support](#) tool as a way to connect with your students school counselor should you need additional assistance.

While the SLSD continues to strive to build a school culture where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected, we do need the help of our entire school community.

Last year, the district engaged the services of a consultant to conduct a needs assessment and create a three year plan specific to issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. This three year plan will guide the next phase of our work in this area, beginning with comprehensive professional development for staff. In order to inform that work, and future curriculum work, if you have not already, please complete the [Southern Lehigh School District Climate Survey](#) that was shared with our school community last week. This critical information gathering step is focused on the climate of our district as it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

While having conversations about racism and violence can be traumatic, there is a distinct value in speaking with loved ones about these events. The following resources may assist those seeking additional information to engage their children in challenging conversations.

- [PBS - Talking to Young Children about Race and Racism](#)
- [Parents Magazine - Anti-Racism for Kids: An Age-by-Age Guide to Fighting Hate](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologists - Guidance for Ensuring Student Well-Being in the Context of the Chauvin Trial](#)

We must come together and recognize that all people are worthy of dignity and respect.

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