

June 7, 2020

Dear Millbrook Families,

The senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade and so many other Black Americans have affected us deeply both individually and as a school community. We, as school leaders, feel compelled to respond to these issues and the ongoing acts of racism and violence that have continually threatened the moral fabric of our country.

As a school district that has fully committed to the total well-being of all of our students, we must continue to ensure that our schools are places where children of all cultures, races, ethnicities, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities, and sexual orientations are free to express themselves wholly and authentically in order to thrive without fear of oppressive or offensive acts from others in our school community. In support of making that world a reality, it is our duty to provide educational opportunities for students to explore diverse cultures and viewpoints with open minds and the support of educators in order to shape and expand their thinking.

While this certainly was not the end of the 2019-20 school year for which any of us would have wished or could have ever predicted, we understand now more than ever that we have the power to choose how our next chapter will be written. As a community, we can show love in the face of hatred and remain courageous in these times of fear and ignorance, walking and working together side by side, towards a brighter future.

As but one part of our greater Millbrook community, our school district remains committed to fostering a culture of open communication and civic responsibility both within our community and beyond. We understand the fundamental need to teach our students what it means to be positive, contributing citizens of the world, the United States, and the Millbrook CSD Community. While we understand these issues to be widespread with the need for change beyond our reach, we know that we must think globally and act locally in educating and empowering students to embrace diversity and our common humanity. Each of us is committed to leading and ensuring a safe and peaceful world through the intercultural understanding and respect that this and every community deserves.

Sincerely,
Laura Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools
Caroline Hernandez Pidala, Assistant Superintendent
Brian Fried, Assistant Superintendent
Elliot Garcia, Director of Technology and Data Services
Eric Seipp, Millbrook High School Principal
Steven Cabello, Millbrook Middle School Principal
Thomas Libka, Alden Place Principal
Karen Ferguson, Elm Drive Principal