



June 5, 2020

Dear Imagine Family,

The recent death of George Floyd is profoundly disturbing. Our country is confronting painful issues in the wake of this tragedy and others like it. We acknowledge the anger and hurt these events have reawakened in so many within our school communities and beyond. We want you to know that we firmly believe that all human beings are created equal. Racism and injustice are not to be tolerated and have no place at Imagine.

As public charter school educators, we have unique opportunities with our students and within our school communities to facilitate constructive dialogue and restorative practices, valuing justice and equity in pursuit of meaningful growth and purposeful change. We recognize that students and their families rely on our school staff for understanding, clarity and empathy. They need a trusted space to articulate their emotions, while being valued and supported. We all know it is important to listen, hear, and provide guidance and support to help them learn about and sort through these complicated issues—encouraging each of our students and ourselves to always act in ways that represent positive character traits and values.

Some of our Imagine family members have asked us for resources to help navigate these difficult conversations. Below are a few suggested teaching resources that may assist each of us as we listen to and speak with our students. The NACT team will also be providing a more comprehensive set of suggested resources to our school leaders across the country.

- [Talking About Race](#) National Museum of African American History and Culture
- [Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom: A Resource for Educators](#) The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (PDF)
- [Why Diversity is Good](#) Teaching Tolerance – Grades 3-5
- [10 Tips for Reading Picture Books with Children through a Race Conscious Lens](#) Embrace Race
- [Creating a Learning Environment Where All Kids Feel Valued](#) Edutopia

At Imagine, we believe that we all share in the responsibility of creating a safe and supportive school environment that contributes to excellence in education. While we recognize and consistently emphasize the importance of positive character development and academic growth, each of our scholars—regardless of race or ethnicity—must also feel and be affirmed, valued, and cared for in order to achieve that goal. That work starts with each of us as we pull together and support one another and our school communities through our Shared Values of Justice, Integrity, and Fun.

We also realize that these recent events may impact each of us differently. At Imagine, we are a team and family, and we will continue encouraging each other and holding each other accountable *every day* so that we, along with our students and families, can all achieve important change together. We do not have all the answers, but we are committed to listening, learning, and modeling inclusion, unity, and respect for all human beings.

We are Imagine!

Sincerely,

Jason Bryant

Barry Sharp