



MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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WWW.MONTCLAIR.K12.NJ.US

NATHAN N. PARKER, ED. D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools

May 29, 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers, Students, and Colleagues,

Sadly we are faced with seeing the incredible brutality, live and in full view, of yet another African American killed. Bystanders, once again unable or unwilling to intervene. The perpetrator had 18 prior complaints; yet the system in place did not prevent this needless escalation of violence.

There is something troubling going on in our society now that is enabling this kind of monstrous behavior. The escalation of violence in media, language, and behavior is growing more prevalent.

No one of color appears to be safe these days. There has been systemic racism in the United States perpetuated over many generations. As a result, a person of color, young or old, must walk the streets with extreme caution.

I grieve for the loss of Mr. George Floyd along with the many others who have been killed, some of whom are listed below:

George Floyd
Breonna Taylor
Ahmard Arbery
Michael Brown
Tamir Rice
Quanice Hayes
Aiyana Jones
Eric Garner
Stephon Clark
Sandra Bland
Kendra James
Trayvon Martin

These senseless murders cannot continue. The loss of life for these individuals is tragic in itself. The loss of civil society has never been more at risk.

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We must continue to have courageous conversations with each other and seek to inspire non-violent solutions to our fears and concerns.

Montclair Public Schools is a place where these conversations take place around a framework of equity and restorative justice.

I express my heartfelt concern for the family and friends of Mr. George Floyd with a feeling of shame that this could continue to happen in the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan N. Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Dr. Nathan Parker
Interim Superintendent