

Farmington PUBLIC SCHOOLS

High achievement by all students,
where learning is our most important work

Esteemed Farmington/Farmington Hills Community!

We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you back to a new school year that we hope to be our best yet! We also want to reach out and ensure our stakeholders that we are committed to promoting safe and nurturing learning environments for all students in our schools. Events across our nation, most recently in Charlottesville, have ignited debate, tension, division, and violence across multiple lines including race, political affiliation, economic class, gender, and identity. This has created high levels of anxiety and concern for many members of our community. We want to personally assure all of you that Farmington Public Schools will continue to embrace our diverse student body and provide a safe, caring, and nurturing environment for all of our learners--students, staff, and families.

The easy road forward would be for us to allow ourselves, our colleagues, our families, and our religious and civic communities to dismiss the impact of these events and not address how they directly affect us. We, however, encourage all of us to be uncompromising in our individual and collective commitments to supporting our richly diverse community. In Farmington Public Schools, we work to address dispositions, practices and actions that redress all forms of oppression in an effort to make our community stronger and better prepared for the world in the 21st century. There is no place for bigotry, hatred, racism and discrimination within our schools. We choose every day to build people up, bring them together collaboratively, and leave them better off as a result of our work. Farmington Public Schools is home to many students and families from varying backgrounds and life experiences, and the way they come together each day is nothing short of impressive. We are proud to be able to serve this community and look forward to a year of productive dialogue and collaboration.

We have included several resources below that you might find helpful as you work with your children in addressing these issues. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us for further dialogue and support.

- <http://www.mommyshorts.com/2017/08/21-childrens-books-teach-kids-kind-inclusive.html>
- <http://alec.education.iupui.edu/equity-resources/>
- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/books-explore-refugee-experience>
- <http://www.readbrihtly.com/books-to-help-kids-understand-the-fight-for-racial-equality/>
- <http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/07/06/534443123/summer-reading-for-your-woke-kid>
- <http://coloursofus.com/multicultural-picture-books-immigration/>
- <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/8-empowering-middle-grade-novels-kids-interested-social-justice.html>

Sincerely,
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