

3 June 2020

Dear PA Cyber community,

Over the past week, we have all witnessed scenes of violence – first against George Floyd – then in cities around the country. It is difficult to explain other people’s actions and to answer the question of why one person chooses to do harm against another, but at PA Cyber, we have the responsibility to ensure that our students think critically and understand the history of their neighbors and communities.

PA Cyber is a large and very diverse school. We pride ourselves on welcoming all students while providing them access to a safe, caring learning environment. I have met many of you in person and realize how important that is to our collaborative success. All of us work hard to treat every student and family member, as well as each other, with genuine dignity and kindness. Personally, I am confident that our students go out into the world demonstrating these key characteristics on a daily basis.

Sadly, there are others who do not believe this. Bias is real. Racism is real. Discrimination is real. Hate is real. It is the responsibility of all who hold positions of leadership: educators, journalists, elected officials, faith leaders, business owners, etc. to speak up and speak out against bias, racism, discrimination and especially hate.

It is simply not possible for me to have had the life experiences to truly understand the fear that some in our nation have every day. Nor is it for me to judge their angry reactions. No one wants to see innocent people injured or buildings destroyed. But we need to look beyond the news reports to see clearly the long history of race relations in this country. Through that lens we must challenge ourselves to be better, smarter, and kinder.

I am certain that some of you are frightened by what you have been seeing and hearing. I hope that you know that there are responsible people who are protecting you. However, as a school, we need to be more purposeful when we teach one another about our shared but varied histories, experiences, and lives. All Americans deserve the inalienable rights promised in the Declaration of Independence – those of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In 2020, these fundamental rights should not be limited by neighborhood, race, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity, poverty, or anything else.

At PA Cyber, let us commit ourselves to those cherished ideals while we take the necessary actions to make them realized. Our learning and our growth must never stop.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HAYDEN
Chief Executive Officer