

Weekly News from BBMS

Bonnie Branch Middle School <do-not-reply@hcpss.org>

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To: Claire Striebich <Claire_Striebich@hcpss.org>

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June 6, 2020

Dear BBMS Families,

We hope this note finds your family safe and healthy amidst so much turbulence in our world. The news of Mr. Floyd's killing has shaken all of us and that impact carries a tremendous weight into our community. The pain we feel has deep feelings and emotions and we would normally be able to find comfort and support from others in a safe place; and for many, that safe place would be Bonnie Branch Middle School. Right now, that just isn't possible and we feel more distant than ever from you, our students, and each other as staff members. And as we reflect on the events surrounding this terrible event, we hope that BBMS is that safe place for you and your students. And if it isn't, we hope that you will help us find a way to improve our efforts so we can fully support each and every one of our students.

Included in this message are resources that you can use as a family. Please reach out to us if we can be a support to you, your student, or if you just want to talk.

The HCPSS Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shared many resources with us this week. I have chosen some to share with you today as we begin, or continue, our journey on supporting children and developing empathic citizens.

- *Beyond the Golden Rule ([beyond_golden_rule.pdf](#)) is a tremendous resource from Teaching Tolerance. It is written for parents; however, the information is significant to educators and how we communicate with our students.*
- *There is an abundance of resources just waiting to empower you to be a more effective player in the quest for equity and justice. Please use this plan <https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge> just as it is, or adapt it to a sector, an ethnic/racial group, or interest area. For 21 days, do one action to*

further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity.

- *The following article helps parents learn how to support your children during scary times by validating their feelings and having challenging conversations.* With protests over the violent deaths of black Americans dominating the news, it's understandable that many kids are feeling scared, confused or angry about the situation. <https://childmind.org/article/racism-and-violence-how-to-help-kids-handle-the-news/>

Thank you for reading my message and for acknowledging that there is pain and suffering that is happening in our communities. Thank you for taking the time to read and reflect upon this text and thank you for supporting your students and BBMS. Together, we will be able to find a way to strengthen our community that helps educate and empower each of our students to be successful, caring citizens.

Go Sharks.

Drew Cockley
Principal

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