



GLEN LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

“Dedicated to Excellence!”

6 June 2020

Dear Laker Families:

As a public school leader, I have worked with dedicated staff and parents to mitigate social injustice in the hallways and classrooms of our schools for over 40 years. Over the past few weeks, my staff, along with our students, have seen the marginalization of people of color and the social outcry against the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd dominate the news cycle. It has fostered discussions in our virtual classrooms. As a staff, we are not pretending to know all of the answers. Yet, we want our students to know that we are listening to them. We want them to know that they do have a voice, even from our little spot in the world, that can be shared and added to the many voices across our nation and the world pleading for peace and racial harmony.

Within the Glen Lake Schools, we believe in kindness, fairness and respect. It has saddened me greatly to see disregard for human life by any who might attempt to deny others basic freedoms because of the color of a person’s skin. I am so impressed and proud of my students and staff for the efforts they make to insure we abandon attitudes of prejudice. Prejudice raises its ugly head in many ways beyond race. Being different in any way--be it color, size, shape or beliefs can give rise to teasing, ridicule, bullying and violence. Prejudice knows no bounds. At a time when information and education are so abundant, prejudice breeds intellectual poverty instead of a wealth of understanding and growth. We need to eliminate the blind spots we have and allow ourselves to develop a lens of clarity to see what is right and good and to protect the rights given to us as women, men and children of all ages—regardless of color.

Our students have become witnesses to economic hardship, protests and the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic over the past months. At a time when there is so much instability in our society, we must provide stability founded on truth and show a willingness to listen, learn and act appropriately. Glen Lake must be a safe place for our students and staff and we are committed to ensuring that occurs.

I hope we might look to do all that we can within our spheres of influence to preserve the dignity and well-being of all we associate with and most especially support those who have been subjected to prejudice and racism.

It will take courage to move to higher ground. Some may mock or scorn our attempts to build bridges of understanding, yet, it is never the wrong time to do the right thing. The architects of freedom of this generation are trusting us to begin building those bridges now.

Sincerely,

Jon D. Hoover
Superintendent

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