



Burch Charter School of Excellence

100 Linden Avenue, Irvington, NJ 07111

(973) 373-3223

Dr. Jeff White, Chief School Administrator

Mr. Timothy Simmons, Vice Principal

Ms. Jennifer Stein, Vice Principal

April 12, 2021

Dear Burch Charter School Community,

Our nation was gripped by outrage at last year's events of racism, violence and injustice. The year 2020 was a most challenging year for all of us in the Burch School Community. During that time, our school community was resilient throughout all the challenges that we faced. Tragically, the year 2021 has again seen events of racism, violence, murder and injustice against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). We stand with our AAPI community to denounce such atrocities. **We are one family, the human family.**

Our school is diverse in racial and ethnic heritage, and we can learn so much from each other. We are always grounded by our students. Our school is the best place to prepare our children to make change. We feel very fortunate on a daily basis to have our students interact across cultures. From classroom discussions to morning meetings to new friendships in the building and remote, our students have so many opportunities to learn, understand and value the cultural and diverse perspectives of others.

We want our students to learn about empathy, tolerance, and acceptance, as well as be model scholars and 21st century leaders in their community. Between the diversity of our population and the thoughtful, engaging, and through provoking lessons/conversations from our teachers and staff, we can provide our students with the tools they need to stand up against racism, biases, and other social injustices.

It is our hope that conversations about the value of life and how every experience is a learning opportunity. We encourage you to discuss with your child how their experiences can motivate them to be the real change we need in our communities and our country. If you are having a difficult time having these conversations, we have provided a list of resources that you can use as a guide.

Social Justice Resources

[Raising Race Conscious Children | A Resource for Talking About Race & Diversity With Young Children](#)

[The 2018 Ultimate List of Diverse Children's Books](#)

[Coretta Scott King Book Award Winners](#)

[31 Children's books to support conversations on race, racism and resistance](#)

[60+ Resources for Talking to Kids About Racism](#)

[27 Books to help you talk to your kids about racism](#)

[Multicultural Picture books](#)

If you or your students want to talk about the painful events of the past week, we are here for you. Please contact our school counselor Ms. Prawetz via email: jprawetz@burchcharterschool.org or any of us, if you feel we can help you through these difficult times.

Our school community is strong and we have weathered many storms together. We will get through this on-going hurt and unrest together and come out stronger.

Sincerely,

Ms. Heather Martindale, Board President,

Dr. Jeff White, Chief School Administrator