

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Office of the Superintendent**

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*William O. George III, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*

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June 18 2020

Dear school community,

On behalf of the Board of Education and our school community, we share in the pain, heartache and frustration expressed by our national and global communities in the wake of the tragic May 25 death of George Floyd.

Members of our student body, alumni and school community stand together in solidarity for justice and equity. Recently, an [open letter](#) from students past and present addressed to me, the Board of Education and our faculty gave me pause to reflect on the role we as an academic institution play in developing a culture of anti-racism.

Middletown Township Public Schools promote a self-directed learning model that encourages content mastery and the development of lifelong learning skills and practices. We advocate for students to use their voice to implement meaningful change that positively impacts their educational experience and surroundings. As stated in our district mission statement, we “encourage students to develop their imagination and creativity, aspire to greatness, value diverse perspectives, and demonstrate cultural competence as global citizens to prepare for future academic, career, and personal success.”

If personalized learning, self-reflection, and the ability to grow ethically and morally are foundational concepts we endorse and use to educate future leaders, then we must ask ourselves if we can do better to inspire the change we wish to see in the world.

The letter from our current students and alumni calls to alter the lens through which so many history lessons are taught. In the letter, members of our school community request consistent implementation of a curricular redesign that delivers a comprehensive study of marginalized groups in American history and incorporates works by authors of color and intersectional writers. Finally, the letter implores that our district continues the conversation about global and societal issues such as systemic racism, police brutality, mass incarceration and white privilege in our classrooms.

The district has taken a number of steps and implemented several programs and initiatives to help broaden the global competency of our school community. These ongoing efforts were outlined in a [June 10 community letter](#). As an educational institution, we understand that the best way to eliminate biases and eradicate racism is through a sustainable education design for students and staff.

This is a humble beginning to achieving our vision for social justice. The Middletown Township Public School District is committed to providing opportunities for our students to openly discuss meaningful and relevant topics and assist them in reaching their full potential as lifelong learners and globally responsible citizens.

Sincerely,



William O. George III, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools