



June 1, 2020

Dear Families,

As we watched the news unfold over the last week, we recognize how difficult it may be for some students to process the intense footage of the violence, racism, and anger. Since we cannot be together in the classroom to discuss and unpack the events, it is essential for learning communities to seek shared understanding and knowledge.

As educators, we strive to find a balance of empathy, understanding, and optimism. We always put the social-emotional wellness of our students at the forefront of our work. The students of Far Hills have the tools and skills to understand and process these events in an age-appropriate manner. Our daily expectation that the Far Hills community be guided by the pillars of respect, responsibility, leadership, kindness, and honesty will serve the students well when processing these difficult times.

Our job as parents and educators is to help them access these tools and skills and use them to help make sense of the world around them. To that end, here are some resources for our families to use as part of their discussions at home:

[PBS Learning Media](#)

[Tolerance.org](#)

While the issues are complex and sensitive, and the news footage frightening to view, we know our students must understand the gravity of the situation and process it as responsible global citizens. Over the last several days, what has transpired across the country speaks to the broader challenges

we face as a nation. Our students have a weighty responsibility ahead of them as they inherit the mantle of responsibility for affecting change. Through self-reflection, discussion, and initiative, our students can challenge inequity and push each other to be more empathic and thoughtful. More than ever, we need young people who can think critically, speak and debate thoughtfully, and question appropriately. Present-day issues have not only created the demand for researchers and scientists, but also the need responsible activists and citizens committed to education and dialogue.

As a community, we believe it is important to support a forum for parents to share, discuss, reflect, and problem-solve together. To facilitate this, we have scheduled a Zoom webinar to foster such a conversation. What effect does the news have on young children and teens? How can we protect our children from this pervasive media and support productive and important dialogue? How can we help our children process what they see every day?

Join Dr. Steve Tobias, Acting Head of School Georgia Zaiser, and Division Directors Ed Thompson and Daniel Sussman for a special Parent-to-Parent Session on June 3 at 6 p.m. We hope you can join the conversation.

Please use this link to [join the webinar](#). Password: 940775

Respectfully,



Georgia S. Zaiser
Acting Head of School



Daniel Sussman
Director of Lower School



Ed Thompson
Director of Upper School and Secondary School Placement