

June 8, 2020

Dear Red Hill Families,

We are excited to introduce you to our Red Hill Family Engagement Team and its mission. The Family Engagement Committee was formed in August 2019 to support our school improvement plan and further Red Hill's commitment to culturally responsive teaching. Our goal is to promote positive learning partnerships with students and families. We believe that "learning partnerships... are the cornerstone of culturally responsive teaching. This relationship is anchored in affirmation, mutual respect, and validation that breeds an unshakable belief that marginalized students not only *can* but *will* improve their school achievement" (Zaretta Hammond, 2015).

A true partnership requires us to acknowledge current events that impact the lives of our community members. The murder of George Floyd by police in Minnesota spawned protests and riots across the nation and world. The movement has demanded our attention to solving the problem of racism in America. This is a pivotal moment in our country; one that gives us the opportunity to truly live up to our motto of "liberty and justice for all." For our part, as a school and school division, we reject all forms of racism and in doing so support anti-racist dialogue and lawful actions meant to bring about positive change.

In an effort to facilitate dialogue in the Red Hill community, the Family Engagement Committee has compiled a list of anti-racism resources. Many of you, like us, may currently be experiencing a range of emotions under already difficult circumstances. These resources are intended to provide opportunities for reflection, action, and empowerment. We want you to know we are with you, we are educating ourselves, and we are looking for ways to better support you and your children. We look forward to continuing this work in the fall.

Sincerely,

The Family Engagement Committee

***If you are a parent, guardian, or community member who would like to serve on the Family Engagement Committee next year, please contact Ms. Z!
azlotnick@k12albemarle.org***



We'd Love to Hear From You

Please contact any member of the Family Engagement Committee with comments, questions, concerns, or suggestions!

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Resources

Tips and Toolkits

- They're Not Too Young to Talk About Race
<http://www.childrenscommunityschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/theyre-not-too-young-1.pdf>
- 10 Tips for Teaching and Talking to Kids About Race
[https://www.embracerace.org/assets/embraceracetipsenglish-\(2\).pdf](https://www.embracerace.org/assets/embraceracetipsenglish-(2).pdf)
- Parent Toolkit: How to Talk to Kids About Race and Racism
<https://www.parenttoolkit.com/social-and-emotional-development/advice/social-awareness/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-and-racism>
- 8 Tips for Talking to Your Child About Racial Injustice
https://www.embracerace.org/assets/young_kids_racial_injustice.pdf

Podcasts and Webinars

- NPR Podcast: Talking Race With Young Children
<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children?fbclid=IwAR262i36JkNreR2iYg0pPPHDPL9u6iyHSVkMV2vrR3Ehdl-1oG-0ZIXKMrY>
- Embrace Race: Webinar Library
<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/webinars>

Books

- Books to Help Kids Understand the Fight for Racial Equality
<https://www.readbrihtly.com/books-to-help-kids-understand-the-fight-for-racial-equality/>
- How to Talk to Kids About Race: Books and Resources That Can Help
<https://www.readbrihtly.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-books-and-resources-that-can-help/>
- Social Justice Booklists
<https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/>

