

Meadowview Hawk Families

As we head into summer break, I wanted to reach out one final time and address the recent social unrest as a result of racial inequities. I want to echo the messages of support and the call to action that have been shared this past week by Dr. Hardebeck, Dr. Nordin and Marquell Johnson – This call to action may look different from family to family, and that's okay! We are all at different places along this journey of understanding and working towards making systematic change within the world we live in.

As a white male, I now recognize the privilege that I have had during my life because I have never been consciously aware and thinking that my race or ethnicity mattered in a way that kept me from doing or being whatever I wanted in life. I have throughout my careers tried to follow the simple adage that we all try to teach children all the time, 'treat others the way you want to be treated'. I have not always been perfect at it, but it has become a more and more purposeful way of life for me.

As school counselor I regularly see that this is not always true for everyone. This has motivated me more and more to work with children, families, adults and other educators to always work for and hope for all children to have the same opportunities and dreams I want for my own children. I had to put the work in to get where I am, but I also did not face the systematic barriers others have faced. I want to be a part of all of us working to assure every child, every adult, and every family will be treated with dignity and respect.

Below is a list of resources that may help as you have discussions with your children about what they are seeing on national and local television as well as social media.

- [Helping Your Child Cope with Media Coverage of Community Racial Trauma: Tips for Parents](#)
- [Racism and Violence: How to Help Kids Handle the News](#)
- [It's Never Too Young to Talk About Race and Gender](#)
- [Talking to Kids about Discrimination](#)
- [How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism](#)
- [Read and discuss books about diversity](#) as a family from your local library or through [Sora](#).

I would welcome discussions, questions, and concerns you may have so please don't hesitate in getting in touch with me.

Ultimately, how each one of us responds to this call to action will play a crucial role for generations to come because our children are watching...

I am wishing you and your family all a safe and healthy summer with opportunities to learn and explore together.

Randy Richter

rrichter@ecasd.us (715) 852-4003