

# WILLOW SPRINGS PUBLIC SCHOOL

DISTRICT 108 • COOK COUNTY

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Dear Willow Families:

George Floyd. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. Tony McDade. Across America, people mourn for Black lives lost due to violence and racism. We at Willow pray for comfort for all their families, and that justice will be served. I, also, pray for those who have suffered from the violence and looting over the past week with many store owners often losing their livelihood. I am grateful for the police officers and firefighters working to keep our communities safe. I'm writing this from home, listening to sirens racing past and helicopters flying overhead. I pray for peace and healing, so that we might begin the work of creating a more equitable world for our children.


In my heart, I know people are mourning. People are outraged. People are afraid. I know people endure injustice, terror, disease, hunger and death as constant companions - often as a result of their skin. I know our country and our community need to do better. If we want a world where everyone can walk down their street without fear, we need to have honest and sometimes, uncomfortable conversations.

I believe schools have a role to play as our country struggles to make a new normal. At Willow Springs School, we are committed to finding ways to make our world more fair, just, and equitable. It won't be easy, but I know we are up for the challenge. When in doubt, be kind. Lead with love. Treat each member of our community with dignity and respect. While this may sound too simple a place to start, simple is often best.

If you haven't done so already, please talk with your children about what is happening in our community and nation. They've seen parts of it on TV, and are likely as fearful as we are. Knowing what is happening helps to calm some of the fear. Fear of the unknown is always harder to cope with. In the coming days, we'll provide some age appropriate resources to help with these discussions. As your child's parent, you know your children best, knowing just what and how much to share.

As a parent of 16 year old twins, I firmly believe that we need to make our community and our nation better for all of our children -- no matter the color of our skin. We at Willow Springs School will work towards making our community a more just and fair one for everyone. We'll be including our families with us on this journey. We know that family and school working together make for the best results. We're all better and stronger together.

Sincerely yours,



Frank C. Patrick



WILLOW SPRINGS SCHOOL, WHERE A LOVE OF LEARNING GROWS.