



## **WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER**

Good Evening Upper Darby Royal Family:

This is Dr. Daniel McGarry, Superintendent of Schools, reaching out to you. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the fact that, at this time, our country, community, staff and our students and their families are hurting right now. We grieve over the tragic death of George Floyd and offer our condolences to his family and friends. We are further saddened that the real message seems to be getting lost in the midst of the reactions of some. The aftermath of actions rooted in hurt and pain are taking the focus off of the real problem. Some of these reactions and responses, along with the recent string of incidents in the media, are reminders of the unsettled legacy of race relations in this country.

As you know, COVID-19 has hurt our community more than others, and the tragic death of George Floyd has added to the hurt our community faces. The past week was without question difficult and not what we want to define our community. In Upper Darby, we are a family, and we are now going to rally around those in need.

I want you to know that we are here for you and for the community we serve. I have communicated with our Chief of Police and shared our support of his office and his efforts to support our community. I will be working on a joint plan with the Upper Darby Chief of Police to support our community and our students.

As a District, we want to make sure that we are providing our students with an opportunity to be heard. I want you to know that we will be providing emotional support for our students. We are currently developing a plan with our principals, school social workers and counselors to address students' needs.

These are without question very sensitive times, and I am concerned about the long-lasting traumatic impact all of this is having on our students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. I am aware of the social media circulating about the events that took place last week and what transpired in our community throughout the day yesterday. Our students will need our collective efforts, love, and a listening ear to navigate all of this heartache and see this school community as a support.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated:

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

We are in this together.

Daniel P. McGarry, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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