

"We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe." ~ Elie Wiesel

Dear HC Community,

June 2, 2020

Henderson Collegiate (HC) equips students with the character traits and academic skills that are necessary to change the world. Part of that education includes modeling what it means to bolster the voice of those people who have been historically and systematically oppressed. Another part is speaking out against injustice. In that effort, on behalf of the whole Pride (staff, students, and families), HC is taking a position against racism, abuse of power, and indifference. We share the anger, frustration, and sadness that comes from watching George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless others lose their lives as a result of hatred and broken systems. As we mourn their lives and as we hear their cries for help, we need to determine how we are going to be part of the solution.

Will we march and protest? Will we continue to hunger for knowledge and actively pursue information so that we are equipped for this fight? Will we continue to be engaged citizens who hold our elected officials accountable for reform and for the pursuit of equality?

The answer is yes.

We have always taught our students to use their minds to solve problems. We must continue to find ways to force our leaders to make the necessary changes to protect ALL of their citizens. In order to lead, you have to earn being in the room where decisions are being made. This means that we need to pursue education as the key that unlocks those doors and enables freedom and equality to become reality.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." ~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a leader of color and as the leader of Henderson Collegiate, I am infuriated not only about the gross abuse of power and blatant racism that we have all witnessed, but also by the indifference displayed by many of our elected officials as they refuse to take a stand. Over 1,000 people are killed every year by police. Knowing that black people are 3 times more likely to be killed than white people, we will not sit on the sidelines. The time for action is NOW. We will increase our efforts to teach our students that although we live in a great country, it is up to ALL of us to make sure that the dream of equality is achieved. We will arm them with grit, love, and the skills necessary to make the next generation far better than the one that stole the lives of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. We will engage our children in the democratic process so that they can see through the rhetoric and elect leaders who will provide a voice to their ideals and perspectives. We will empower our young men and women so that they can participate in peaceful demonstrations and make their voices heard as they fight for what is right.

Thank you for being part of the movement to fight for equity, demand reform, and build the leaders who will change the world. We are all brothers and sisters in the movement and as such, I offer you love and commitment as we continue together on our journey.

Sincerely,



Eric E. Sanchez
CEO, Henderson Collegiate