



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

*Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools*

June 5, 2020

Dear Akron CSD Community:

Witnessing the public outcry, civil unrest, and tragic events that have unfolded in streets across the country in the wake of the death of George Floyd fills me with genuine dismay and deep sadness. Moreover, watching the local news reports illuminating the pain of racism, at times overshadowed by senseless and destructive acts, in the city in which I grew up has been particularly troubling. I imagine that you and other members of our community may be struggling to make sense of these incidents as well. These are deeply complex issues with no easy answers. Yet, despite our feelings and the uncertainty of how best to respond, I recognize that now is not a time to be silent. We all have an opportunity to bring healing and relief. With civility, equity and understanding we must do everything within our power to create a safer and better world for our students and our communities. That may start by simply treating our neighbors as we would have them treat us.

At the very time where many children are struggling with the social and emotional impact of the pandemic and the separation from teachers and friends, they are also witnessing tremendous instability in the social fabric of our nation. As parents and educators, we must turn our attention to their needs and help them cope in these troubling times. The children are the future and the lessons they learn from us will influence how they shape their world. It is my hope that they understand that all human beings deserve equal rights, opportunities and protections. That very sentiment is conveyed in our mission statement:

"The mission of the Akron Central School District, a learning-centered community dedicated to our students, is to ensure that each student realizes his or her unique potential and contributes positively to society."

To our students, I want you to know that we are here for you. If you are in need of someone to talk to, please reach out to a trusted adult. That may be a parent, grandparent, guardian, relative, teacher, counselor, or a building principal. While we are not able to be together in school at this time, please know that all of our staff members care for you and are more than willing to support your well-being.

We are all proud of our school district and the many ways in which we recognize, teach and celebrate the rich diversity that we enjoy. I ask that you continue to support us as we work to make Akron an even more inclusive and welcoming home to all. The future change that we all need to see in society begins here, where we educate the leaders of tomorrow.

Recognizing that parents and guardians may be in need of information to help address this topic with their children, our district Student Support Team has [compiled a list of useful resources that may be accessed from the district website here.](#)

From all of us here at ACS, thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,
Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

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