

In the pursuit of excellence...



Caledonia Community Schools

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April 20, 2021

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

I'm sure by now you have heard the results of the verdict in the trial of Derrick Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer charged with murdering George Floyd. Regardless of the verdict reached, as we saw last year this was a challenging time for all, and the opinions and reactions among our staff, students, and community members will vary and potentially be emotionally charged. We want you to know we stand ready to support our students.

As such, we reached out to our staff earlier tonight encouraging them to continue creating and maintaining safe spaces for students, staff, and our community to express opinions. However, within that safe space, students must be reminded that their right to freedom of expression or speech must still be free of harassment, bullying, or any other violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The same consideration applies to conversations amongst our staff. Our staff does an amazing job already with this with our students and we have no doubt they will do everything in their power to support the health and safety of our students.

Please know that the mental health and well-being of our students, our staff, and the community, are essential. We have worked with our student support team to provide optional resources for families who would like to use them for discussion at home.

- [Racial Stress and Self Care](#): American Psychological Association
- [How to Talk About Traumatic Events and Tragedies](#): Minnesota Department of Education
- [What to Say to Kids When the News Is Scary](#): NPR
- [Coping with Grief After Community Violence](#): SAMHSA

In closing, if your student needs support with this difficult topic while in school, please reach out to your building administrator or student support personnel.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dedrick Martin
Superintendent
Caledonia Community Schools

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