



June 17, 2020

Dear Glen Burnie Cluster Families,

In Anne Arundel County Schools, we celebrate the idea that #WeAreBetterTogether every day. For the Glen Burnie community, this has been our mission as our students, teachers, parents, and community members work to support each other. To that end, it is imperative that we create environments that are inclusive and supportive during a time when unity, not divisiveness is paramount.

There is no question that people in our community are hurting. Social and racial injustice have been brought to the forefront again with the tragic death of George Floyd. We promise you that we will continue to do everything we can to provide a safe, supportive, equitable, and most importantly, a compassionate space for our students. That starts with exploring common interests, continues through the intersections of differences, and culminates with having meaningful conversations about how we can achieve common goals.

We will not always agree, but celebrating diversity means respecting one another and creating schools, workplaces, and communities rich in acceptance, kindness, and inclusion. It is important to listen and seek to understand as we engage in courageous conversations that are critical to the support of our students and communities.

Our students come to school each day prepared and ready to learn, but our roles as educators don't end with academics. We must continue to teach our students about the importance of kindness, acceptance, keeping in mind that success for us is not just about teaching standards and mastering content. Most importantly, we as educators and community members must continue to work together to create caring and compassionate young men and women.

Our Anne Arundel County communities need to be built up, not torn down. Our students need all of us to provide examples, guidance, and support as they continue to grow emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively. Those conversations can be aided by [outside resources, such as those found here](#).

This statement from the [Educational Equity policy](#) adopted by the Board of Education in May sums it our work well: "The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) acknowledges the historical, generational, and compounding reality of the systems, structures, and practices that have intentionally and unintentionally created and continued to afford advantages to some student groups while perpetuating inequities for others. AACPS must take responsibility and action for dismantling, and actively repairing these inequities to ensure positive educational outcomes for all AACPS students."

As we move forward in closing out the end of this school year and draw closer to summer break, we must all remind our students to think before they post or speak, engage in empathetic conversations, find the good in others, and make choices that serve to productively and positively continue the dialogue. We must all commit to let our

words and actions serve as a broader exclamation that we will listen to each other, seek to understand, lift each other up, and be open-minded enough to truly be the change you wish to see in the world.

If we do that, than **#WeAreBetterTogether**.

Sincerely,

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Kristy Snyder  
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Tamara Kelly-Molock  
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