

March 18, 2021

Dear Farmington Families, Faculty and Staff,

As a school district community, we stand in unity against any form of racial violence or racism. Events related to racial violence against Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are deeply disturbing and bring forth feelings of fear and worry for our students and community members. I, along with all members of our school district community including our Board of Education, condemn acts of racial violence against Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Tomorrow, Farmington High School students will join together to make a statement to the school community concerning these acts and our Asian American Student Union will create a space on Tuesday of next week to join together to stand united against racial violence.

Our equity work within the Town of Farmington and our schools is critical to deepening understanding of one another, heightening empathy and care for all people and celebrating and honoring the unique identity we each possess. This is especially important for those racial groups that have been historically victims of racism and racial violence. In a recent letter from Harvard University's President, Lawrence S. Bacow, the following was shared, *"Each of us must respond in both words and deeds, demonstrating the good that comes from building a community made stronger by difference."* The diversity within our school district is a significant strength and we celebrate and honor all members of our school district community with a strong focus on equity, inclusivity and belonging in our daily work with students and one another.

Governor Lamont recently released this statement, *"I condemn – in the strongest of terms – the recent violent acts of racism and hate committed against Asian Americans that we have seen across our country. Seeing these attacks in nearby New York reminds us all that hate and bigotry are symptoms of a virus that continues to permeate our society – racism. My administration, my family, and the residents of Connecticut will not stand for these acts or these attitudes. Just over a year ago, I made it a point to meet with our Asian brothers and sisters in West Hartford to show solidarity at an early point in the pandemic, making sure to send a message of love and partnership. Seeing these acts happen now disappoint and anger me."*

Again, we stand in unity with Governor Lamont and community members against all forms of racial violence and racism. As always, we will have counselors and social workers available for any student who needs support at this time. If your child is experiencing fear or worry, please reach out to your child's teacher, counselor or principal. Faculty and staff should also reach out to their principal if they are in need of support. Acts of racial violence and racism have a profound impact on our entire school community and we take a proactive approach to supporting our students, faculty and staff at all times and especially during challenging and difficult times. Please see the resources below to support your child and build greater understanding. Please join the Farmington Public Schools in standing together with our Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islanders students, neighbors and friends against all forms of racism and racial violence.

Sincerely,

Kathy

Resources for our school district community:

- **6 Ways to be an Ally**
- **Parent captures stories to target anti-Asian bias.**
- **Talking to Kids About Asian American Identity and Racism**
- **Thursday, March 18th, 5pm- 6:30pm- Asians in America: Anti-Asian Violence & the Fight Against Invisibility**, Register via WebEx: <https://bit.ly/387Ld>
- **AAAJ Mission Asian Americans Advancing Justice**: Rooted in the dreams of immigrants and inspired by the promise of opportunity, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC (Advancing Justice | AAJC) advocates for an America in which all Americans can benefit equally from, and contribute to, the American dream.

District Information and Resources:

- **Equity Framework and Webpage**
- **Farmington's Equity Framework**

“Education is about improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.” ~Marian Wright Edelman