

June 3, 2020

Dear Live Oak Charter Families and Friends,

On behalf of the Live Oak School Board and all of our faculty and staff, I would like to say that we denounce the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Dion Johnson and that *Black Lives Matter*. Once again, police brutality has taken Black Lives, shaking the nation with grief and outrage. We are saddened by this loss, and deeply disturbed by the persistent racism and aggression among some Police Officers who are sworn to serve and protect.

Just like many of you, I spent time last week watching videos, tweets, reading the news, and experiencing much anger, pain, and frustration. The death of George Floyd is tragic, and along with the stress of COVID-19, it struck another tipping point in our society. We see this manifest through demonstrations in cities across our country. These demonstrations are a direct result of continued injustices that threaten and silence the livelihoods of people of color within our communities. I urge you to seek out and attend local rallies, listen, and demonstrate peacefully.

These tragic events must serve as a reminder that we still have much work to do in creating more inclusive environments – for our students, our community, our nation and our world. As Live Oak Charter, we have a responsibility to make sure we continue to do our part to foster empathy, compassion, and kindness as well as bravery to be an upstander and not be silently complicit with acts of racism.

I want to reaffirm that Live Oak Charter continues our daily work to be a safe and welcoming school environment for study, play, and work. We plan to continue working with the Live Oak TIDE (Team for Inclusivity Diversity and Equity) team to increase our growth in addressing injustices. We must hold the responsibility of ensuring that we can do better and will do better by impacting our students with the skills and confidence to be stewards of a healthy, supportive, loving, kind, and emotionally intelligent community.

We are all in this together.

Best,  
Justin