

Dear Wissahickon Community,

This has been a school year like no other. Our school, city, and nation experienced layers upon layers of confusion, uncertainty, suffering and grief among many other emotions. As the school year came to a close, we couldn't help but reflect on all that happened--the pandemic, continued social and racial injustice, violence, and more. While we look back with bewildered minds and heavy hearts, we also draw on the spirit, strength, and solidarity of the Wissahickon Charter School community. We celebrate the resilience and commitment of our students. We honor the sacrifice and patience of our parents. We salute the dedication and school spirit of our teachers. We stand in solidarity with you all.

Specifically regarding social and racial injustice, we want to acknowledge the ongoing struggle and recent tragedies and their impact on you and your families. As an extension of our mission, we want you to know that every part that makes up Wissahickon Charter is committed to creating a diverse and welcoming school, a place for all people. As a board, we support curriculum and programs that aim to celebrate different cultures, histories, and perspectives. We work with the school's leadership and staff to ask the challenging questions about what equity means for our community. We are open to the many ways that justice can make a positive difference in all of our lives.

Since the beginning, we have been curious, open, and committed to these ideals, but this year, we thought it important to put them at the forefront and build a lens by which we can see all aspects of what the school is and can be. We formed the Diversity, Inclusion and Justice Committee within the board. We recognize that having a committee like this is not unique, but it is still a testimony. It is a step toward. It is a looking inward. It is a path ahead. We've learned so much already, and we look forward to discovering more ways to serve, partner, honor, and respect.

We hope that the summer will provide much-needed opportunities for fun, rest and preparation for the school year ahead. No matter what lies ahead, we will continue to uplift, stand with, and lead with you.

Sincerely, Wissahickon Charter School Board of Trustees