

June 4, 2020

Mastery Parents,

This has been an extraordinary week – for the first time in my lifetime, there is a long overdue, sustained, and united cry for justice in the wake of the incredible pain caused by the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. Many Mastery staff, students, and families that have taken to the streets, social media platforms, and other venues to demand that Black Lives Matter in this nation. Perhaps this time, change will really come. I pray it will be so.

This moment is also a time for reflection about what each of us must do as individuals and how Mastery as an institution must work to end systemic racism. We know that we can make our schools even more affirming places for every student and push back hard on the societal norms that criminalize and set low expectations for our brilliant Black & Brown students.

In times of darkness and pain, I find that our students point the way. Please take a moment to review these examples of our students' brilliance that capture the moment better than I ever could:

- 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Hardy Williams [writing about what #blacklivesmatter means to them](#)
- 8th grade student at Cramer Hill performing an [original poem](#)
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Frederick Douglass, who wrote this poem:

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The killing the hurting is
      bringing tears
The cops are making fear for the
kids who are broken down for years

We got kids who will do anything
      to see their moms and dad
      I swear this makes me mad

That we can't go out and have fun
      We always have to run
      We can't go out and enjoy the sun

Because it's not safe, the cops
      are fake
These cops got to stop the hate
      for our sake

We have to stand up and fight
Just to come outside for the light

We have to fight for equality!

Sincerely: the 11 year old black
      boy
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I also know that there are many questions in your minds about summer school and next school year. We will pick back up with updates next week. Until then, be safe.

**Parent Action Team Meeting**

Join us for a virtual Parent Action Team Meeting [on Tuesday, June 9th at 5pm](#). We will reflect on the 2019-2020 school year and online learning, discuss ideas for what school could look like in the fall, and spread the word about the 2020 primary election. Let's work together to shape our path forward.

**Please RSVP here.** For more information, please contact Erin Johnson at [856-839-6410](#) or [erin.johnson2@masterycharter.org](mailto:erin.johnson2@masterycharter.org).

**NJ Dept. of Education Survey: Your Input is Requested!**

Thank you for your heroic efforts to support your children's schools and the learning process during closings due to the coronavirus pandemic. The New Jersey Department of Education (Department) continues preparations for the next stages of school opening, and hearing from parents is a Department priority. We appreciate receiving your responses by Monday, June 8th.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at the following link: [NJDOE parent survey](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the Department's Office of Civic and Social Engagement at [civicandsocial@doe.nj.gov](mailto:civicandsocial@doe.nj.gov)<mailto:civicandsocial@doe.nj.gov>