



WOODBURY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Leader in Personalizing Education

January 8, 2021

Dear Woodbury School Community:

This past Wednesday, January 6th, in Washington D.C., we all witnessed a dark day for our country with the breaching of our Capitol by rioters and those acting in the name of protest. What transpired is the antithesis of what we must model for our students when it comes to resolving conflict. We know these events evoke intensely personal reactions for us, and we hope you have an avenue to process them with family, friends, and colleagues. One of our many tasks as educators is to help students process and talk through what they are experiencing in and out of the classroom. Children of all races, religions, gender identities, diverse cultures and social classes must have a safe space to speak and ask questions, and we want to provide that opportunity.

As members of the Woodbury School Community, I am confident that we can lean on each other, listen to each other, and support each other in these tumultuous times. In addition, for many of us what transpired on Wednesday resonates differently, especially for people of color. Most importantly at the same time, we must remember that we are also leaders. We are leaders who protect one of America's most important functions and one of its foundations -- our public schools. We have a responsibility to understand how this is a teachable moment, a moment that strengthens public education, and a moment that also acknowledges this crisis in our democracy.

Again, an opportunity has presented itself to help educate our student body on what peaceful protest means and why it is so important. As a district we will continue to focus on the work of serving the social-emotional needs of our students as we try to help them understand how this happened, what it means and how our nation must work together to move forward. Below are resources that can be used to help facilitate conversations with students:

- [Talking to Children about Violence - Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) (From National Associations of School Psychologists)
- <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/teaching-in-the-wake-of-a-traumatic-news-event-like-the-storming-of-the-u-s-capitol/2021/01>

Respectfully,

Mr. Andrew T Bell Sr.
Superintendent