



Dear TCS Families and Community,

As we watch the unrest that is so vividly playing out in our country right now, and as we experience the sadness and outrage that racial injustice continues to create, I am compelled to offer my voice to our school community.

The death of George Floyd and countless others, points to the systemic injustice that has long plagued our country, and that in this moment is being called out. What we are seeing in our own city and across this country is evidence that this burden, this pain, and this horrific grief has been carried far too long. It must stop. The systemic racism and white supremacy that our country was founded on and that continues to fuel the disproportionate rates of disease, poverty, incarceration and ongoing violence against the black community has, and needs to be, called out.

While this is a time for all of us to come together, I also acknowledge the incomparable toll this has taken on the African American community. No matter how heartbroken and devastated I am at these injustices, I recognize that the tragedy of George Floyd's death, and so many others, affects the Black community, and our African American families, differently, more deeply, and more personally. Having to speak to your child about how he or she may be seen and treated by police officers in our country is gut wrenching and not something all of us must do. Having to talk to your child about race and its impacts on the world is not something all of us have done. The reality that systemic racism lays bare is heartbreaking and sickening, and it is all of our responsibility to step in to correct this injustice.

The Country School has always worked for social justice and change. Our classrooms welcome and prompt conversations that teach, offer dialogue and understanding. Never before in our history have these conversations been more important. As difficult as it is to see our streets and cities in our nation amidst such unrest, I have hope. I have hope that real change can happen. I have hope that each of us will ask ourselves: what can be done? What is my role in combating injustice and racism? What more can I do? What must happen now for this country to make amends and become a nation for all?

I have hope that together we will seek these answers and together we can learn and build.

As a white leader, I know that it is going to take more than desire. I know I don't always get it right. Yet, I also know that our community will continue to guide me as we move forward in this work. And that together, we will make a difference.

Our community aches. My heart is aching too. Together, we will chart a path forward and create the change that is needed in our world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly".

Holly Novick
Head of School