



Dear TCS Community,

On March 29, the first day of the Derek Chauvin trial, Chicago police chased down and fatally shot 13-year-old Adam Toledo in an alley. In the 21 days between these two events, an average of three people per day have been killed by police, including 20 year old Daunte Wright who was fatally shot by a police officer in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

Today, Derek Chauvin's trial ended with a guilty verdict on all three counts. In many ways, this is a day of celebration, a tiny light of possible change shining in impossible, centuries-old darkness. In order to see today clearly, however, we must look at the whole picture.

When I think of my calling to be an educator, I know that I willingly take the good days with the bad. I celebrate the squeals of preschool joy when the tricycles return to the playground after months at home. I console and counsel elementary friends as they navigate the tricky waters of friendships and growing up. I witness the bittersweet tears of nostalgia and hope in the eyes of 8th graders preparing to leave the TCS nest.

I am so happy to be part of providing that nest, this bubble of energy, collaboration, and exploration that we get to share every day behind the Country School fence. But I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge the privilege that fence represents. The world on the other side is the one our students will inherit, and we must prepare them to inherit it well. This means having hard conversations now, and every day. It means coming together as we are, to talk about how those of us who are white can lift up, support, celebrate, and stand in solidarity with those of us who are people of color.

It means talking about the fact that police kill Black people and brown people regularly for indefensible reasons. It means recognizing and being open to talking about the fact that Black and brown people daily face challenges that white people don't have to think about. It means talking about the fact that not having to think about it is also white privilege.

We have been on an anti-racist journey as a school for the past year, and this journey is one we've been preparing for since our inception. Now, we must protect this little flicker of hope from today and grow it into a steady flame. A refrain of the anti-bias, anti-racist movement is "spend your privilege" and this is what some of us must do next in order to stand together in unity. If we have privilege, how do we use our resources, our voice, this privilege, to make today's glimmer of hope lead to real change? Let's find out together.

Please know our teachers are prepared to talk with our students and will support their curiosity and understanding of the significance of today's verdict.

As we continue to strive for change and work to become a society that embraces all of our children equally, I thank you for being a part of this community.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly".