



CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

8040 SW Durham Rd. Tigard, OR 97224 Phone 503-431-5800

Dear Creekside Community,

Even as the spring flowers bloom and the sun shines, we have worried minds. On top of a global pandemic, distance learning, and what feels like a quickly advancing economic recession, we are physically distant from the support network that school is for many of us. What I miss most is sharing space and connecting with students and staff everyday. Yet, another cause for worry, anger, grief, and action presents itself on our news feeds today.

Let us now acknowledge that our country is engulfed in the fire and fury of those of us who feel outraged by the police killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and the larger pattern of racially motivated police violence against Black men and women across our country. Moreover, this pattern reveals a deeper truth: long have we harmed people of color in America through racism, white supremacy, and the injustice that follows in our communities, places of work, and even schools. To our students of color, we know this is nothing new for you, but rather the day-to-day reality that you live. We know you are hurting. We hope that you are connected to a strong community of support, understanding, and love. As we see it, it is the responsibility of White educators and students to learn for themselves, together, what you've known for your whole life.

This morning the staff of Creekside Community High School stood together in silence to remember George Floyd and the countless Black men and women killed before him. That silence was filled with thoughts for the activists who now fill the streets to amplify our call for justice. That silence was filled with memories of our own families' experiences; flashes of civil-rights era newsclips; of our own moments standing on the front lines being pepper-sprayed; our own children and students of color who face this reality; our own questions of how to be good allies without becoming white saviors; our own sadness for all the loss this creates; our own emotion rising into our throats and taking our voices; and our own love for our students. From this love grows our commitment to stamping out racism and oppression here and wherever we find it.

After this powerful silence, we each spoke our truth. We shared with heart. We affirmed our commitment to create a school made to serve the underserved, empower the oppressed, turn outsiders into family, and to teach towards justice every day. We affirmed that the fire burning at the center of our school's mission is fundamentally about building relationships, growing trust, listening, and letting our students show us the way to a better future. The staff of Creekside Community High School stands

with you, hand in hand. Let courageous hope, compassionate wisdom, and inspired action be our guide.
As we march forward, let the others join us.

With love and solidarity,
Russ

Russ Romas

Principal, Creekside Community High School

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[Tigard-Tualatin School District](#)