

June 2, 2020

Dear MSS and LSS Families,

We write this letter in support of our families of color and in recognition that recent national events involving acts of racism are painful to us all. This spring we worked with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee to create a mission and vision statement that was reflective of the purpose and goals of the committee. The opening of that statements reads, “ Exeter School District is dedicated to creating and sustaining an inclusive school community where all families are welcomed and valued.” In order to be a place where families feel welcome and valued, we cannot remain silent when these events have such significant impact on our community. We have a shared responsibility to work toward a better tomorrow, where we foster positive social identity, a focus on empathy, and social justice.

We encourage our families to take the time to have thoughtful conversations about race and identity. Conversation with kids about race, gender, sexuality, religion, and class are too often shushed or stopped all together. Engaging in these conversations is essential in ending discrimination. In this quick three minute episode of NPR and Sesame Workshop’s podcast for parents, experts discuss the importance of talking to kids about social identity. We hope you find this podcast and article helpful. We want all of our children to build a positive sense of identity and a healthy respect for other people’s identity.

Sincerely,  
Steve Adler and Drew Bairstow

Listen to 3-minute NPR podcast [HERE](#)  
Read NPR article on talking to kids about race [HERE](#)