

Rosa L. Diaz
Superintendent

732-541-8960, Ext. 6001
rdiaz@carteretschools.org



BOARD OFFICE
599 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008
Phone: 732-541-8960
Fax: 732-541-0433
www.carteretschools.org

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The last few months have been very challenging for our students and our community, as we have dealt with a pandemic that has impacted many. Now, all of that has been compounded by the recent unrest due to the senseless murder of George Floyd. Our district and the world is now faced with the awakening of a society who is crying and demanding to finally be heard.

As the leader of our school district I have an obligation to my school community and my message must be clear. Carteret Public Schools believes Black Lives Matter. As a mom, a person of color, and a life-long resident (over 45 years) of this beautifully diverse town, it is important to me that my black students know, YOUR LIFE MATTERS! If EVERY child is to feel safe, welcomed, loved and respected in school, then we must make sure black children share the same experience.

Carteret Public Schools is committed to educating future generations of Carteret that will believe in racial equality, inclusivity and cultural acceptance. We will work towards eliminating implicit and systemic racism, because it is no longer enough to merely say, "I'm not a racist." We have now reached a point where it is absolutely necessary that we state, "I will not stand for racism."

We will continue to create safe spaces for our students, as they may feel the need to talk about the news and images they see and hear on tv/social media.

Moving forward, I hope we can all open our hearts as a community to honest conversations and education. Let's learn to be allies and work together on dismantling racism and eliminating social injustices, once and for all.

Please feel free to use the following resources to start these critical conversations:

- [National Geographic: Talking to Kids About Race](#)
- [Why Teaching Black Lives Matters - Matters](#)
- [Raising Race Conscious Kids](#)
- [Resources for Talking about Race, Racism and Racialized Violence with Kids](#)

Respectfully

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