

SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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Kristin P. O'Neil, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

Christopher J. DeStratis
School Business Administrator

June 3, 2020

Dear SWSD Families,

The past few months have presented us all with very challenging circumstances that have impacted our daily lives. We have been dealing with an unprecedented health crisis accompanied by life altering social distancing guidelines resulting from COVID-19. Now, over the course of this past week, we have also been emotionally overwhelmed by graphic video footage and the knowledge of the tragic last moments of Mr. George Floyd's life. Our children have also viewed this media coverage. Since that tragic day, our children have observed protests across our nation that embody our most cherished rights of democracy: our constitutional rights to peacefully assemble, our freedom of association, as well as our right to independent free speech. However, they have learned that sometimes this civil exercise can end with devastating consequences, too.

The New Jersey Education Association recently stated, *"As educators, we bear a great responsibility for shaping society. We have the unique privilege of working with children and young people as they are forming their values and world view. We also have the great responsibility of responding with compassion, courage and conviction as they witness history in real time, as they have been this past week. And more importantly yet, we have a duty and responsibility to work for a better, fairer and more just world for our students to inherit from us."*

Today's media no longer can be turned off by putting the newspaper aside or turning off the radio. Today the media floods our homes with videos, stories, and images on most every electronic device that we own which may evoke significant personal and emotional reactions. In "usual" circumstances, this can be difficult to rationalize and process. However, in these already challenging times, our emotions can overwhelm adults let alone our most vulnerable population - our children.

If you feel as if your child is in need of additional support, please contact your school's counselor, your child's building principal, or a trusted teacher. SWSD is fortunate to employ school psychologists and school counselors, and the District is here to assist you during these difficult moments.

Clifford School Counselor: Ms. Sharman (csharman@swsdk6.com)

Stratton School Counselor: Ms. Pollicino (rpollicino@swsdk6.com)

Harker School Counselor: Ms. Shainline (lshainline@swsdk6.com)

Harker School Counselor: Ms. Best (tbest@swsdk6.com)

Walter Hill School Counselor: Ms. Hwang (chwang@swsdk6.com)

It takes a village to raise a child so please let us know if you are in need of our help.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kristin P. O'Neil
SWSD Superintendent