

CRESSKILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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June 18, 2020

Dear Cresskill Community,

Our country has reached historic crossroads over the past few weeks. Equity for all people, especially our students, has never been more important. As educators, it is our calling to reinforce to our students the universal values of unity, respect, and love. We, the Cresskill Board of Education and Cresskill Public School District, are united in solidarity against all acts of racism, inequity, injustice, and discrimination of any kind.

Our school mission reads:

The Cresskill Schools will promote academic excellence and foster self-esteem in a dynamic, caring environment and will prepare students to be life-long learners and contributors in an evolving and ever-changing world.

We expect all district personnel to fully abide by this mission statement while in support of Cresskill's fair, equitable, and diverse learning community. In recent conversations with students, alumni, and community members, and with respect to recent national and local events, we have received powerful feedback on the steps needed to continue to move forward and stay true to our mission. We strive to help students develop social and historical perspective by teaching them about issues of racism and social injustice. We, as a district, are committed to taking a comprehensive look at what bias has caused and continues to perpetuate in our country.

Now, more than ever, is a time to listen to the voices of our students, community members, and alumni. With that feedback in mind, we are creating a Diversity and Inclusion Committee which will serve as a space to ensure that our district's commitment to tolerance, equity, and diversity is reflected in our curriculum, teaching practices, hiring practices, and broader culture. It is my hope this committee will consist of current and former students, parents, and staff members.

We can only speak accurately through the eyes of our own experiences. It is imperative to hear the personal reality of community members from different races, religious backgrounds, sexualities and genders. This is a core responsibility of any public school district.

The Board of Education and I will be reviewing all relevant policies with regard to inclusion, discrimination, and equality for all. The Cresskill School District invites you to continue to engage us in open lines of communication as we constantly continue to improve our district, community, and society. The day we stop trying to improve is the day we fail our students.

We look forward to a continual healthy dialogue towards our mission.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Burke
Superintendent
Cresskill School District

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The Cresskill Schools will utilize the student learning standards to promote academic excellence and foster self-esteem in a dynamic, caring environment and will prepare students to be life-long learners and contributors in an evolving and ever-changing world.