

Dear Friends and Family of Nativity Academy,

Today we grieve – for the senseless deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, David McAtee, and countless other Black people whose lives mattered, but whose tragic and unnecessary deaths have too often gone unremarked and unvindicated. We grieve for the corrosive effects of a system that perpetuates deep structural and social inequities that are the heritage of 400 years of slavery, racism, and discrimination. We grieve for the pain and losses of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected people of color and compounded the harmful effects of an inequitable system. And we grieve for the gross diminishment of our common humanity that comes from the death or debasement of even one of our Black sisters and brothers.

Today we pray – for the families of those who have lost their lives and for those who may have lost their hope. We pray for our Nativity Academy students and their families, who daily rise to life’s challenges and demonstrate their commitment to educational and personal excellence; you are our reason for being. We pray for our teachers, staff, volunteers, and many community supporters who share the commitment to justice and equity that are at the heart of our Nativity mission. And we pray for our neighbors, our city, and our nation, that we will find in this time of trial an opportunity to transform ourselves and each other and together build the City of God.

Today we pledge – to listen more than to talk; to seek to understand more than to persuade; to give more than to take; to hope more than to fear. We pledge to redouble our efforts to be champions of our students and partners with our parents as we seek to transform our students’ lives – and in turn, transform our world. We pledge to work with our families and graduates in this time of economic dislocation and national crisis to provide our support and resources. And we pledge to continue our quest to make Nativity Academy a force for hope, justice and peace.

None of this is easy, and we won’t get everything right – as a school or as a community. Breaking down the vestiges of systemic racism and economic inequality will not be easy, and it won’t happen overnight. Nor will it be comfortable for so many of us whose skin color and privilege keep us from ever experiencing or truly understanding the painful reality Black Americans live with every day. But we must try, and try, and try – to understand and to act, with patience, humility, diligence, and compassion. That is our commitment at Nativity Academy.

Please know that we are here for you. We are here for our students and their families, ready to remind you that we love you and are here to support you in these stressful and confusing times; we look forward to seeing and embracing you when the COVID-19 crisis has passed. We are here for our graduates, ready to continue walking with you on your path to a bright future; you are family. We are here for our faculty, staff, and volunteers to let you know that we value and honor your commitment to justice through education; we will stand with you in the coming days. And we – the entire Nativity family – are here to stand in solidarity with all in our community who seek to build a better and more just world. Because we are Eagles and we soar!

God bless each of you.

TimHagerty
Board Chair

Will Wells, Ed.D
Vice Chair

Carol Nord
Executive Director

Jamie Oleka
Principal