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COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL OF  
DAVIDSON

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## **CSD's Statement on History Instruction**

June, 2021

We have been receiving some questions about Critical Race Theory (CRT) and CSD's stance on this topic and history instruction. Since this term can mean many different things to different people, we are electing to be transparent about our efforts here at CSD. To be clear, we are not experts on Critical Race Theory and are just learning about it ourselves.

CSD was built on the founding principles of community and inclusion. When we opened our doors twenty years ago, we used the same Mission and Purpose statement that continues to guide us today. All of the decisions made at CSD are done so through this guiding framework. Please take a moment to read the [CSD Mission and Purpose Statement](#) in its entirety to be reminded of the philosophical driving forces at CSD.

We also want to make sure that everyone in our community is aware of the statement on racism CSD published a year ago. This communication is available on our [website](#), and you may click [here](#) to read it in its entirety. It reflects our ongoing commitment to this important work.

The statements below may help our community members understand a few of the nuances in our teaching at CSD.

1. We believe all people belong at CSD; our school is better for your presence.
2. We believe it is our responsibility to make sure every child feels safe and accepted at CSD.
3. We believe that many types of diversity - including cultural, racial, ethnic, religious, political, philosophical, etc. - create a vibrant school community and fosters understanding, compassion, and learning.
4. Our goal is for students to learn *how* to think, not *what* to think. We believe it is the student's job to deconstruct lessons and reconstruct the learning in their own brains.
5. We believe that teachers should create developmentally appropriate classrooms committed to respectful interactions and dialogue.
6. We believe that words matter, and our staff cares when words hurt anyone in our community. We work hard to help create classroom communities where words are not weaponized. We are committed to teaching students the art of civil discourse in a supported, safe environment.

7. We actively encourage students to share with their families what we discuss at school because families are integral partners in the education of their children. If adults have concerns or questions about content we are studying, we ask that you reach out to the teacher for clarification and discussion. We are on the same team, and children benefit when they see that we are partners in their education. Historically, we have been successful with partnering with parents to meet unique learning needs for their children/families.
8. We are committed to teaching truthful, inclusive, and factual history and that means purposefully including historical events from multiple perspectives.
9. We believe that there are policies, systems, and laws that have consistently harmed people of color. When studying history, we must learn about *all* of the history, including tragic events and practices such as slavery, Jim Crow Laws, redlining, Japanese internment camps, Indian Boarding Schools, etc.
10. We teach our students that when we (all of us, teachers included) commit wrongs and make mistakes, it is our job to reflect and learn the lessons that help us grow and be better in the future. Mistakes are an expected part of humanity and also a part of every country. This is true for individuals and for larger communities.
11. Acknowledgement of our history is not an effort to demonize our ancestors or The United States of America. Our country was founded on noble ideals: all people are created equal and every human has the right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. These are inalienable rights for all and are the ideals that we should continue striving for as individuals and as a country.
12. We believe that ultimately, it is up to each person to determine what they believe is their own individual responsibility to themselves, their community, and to our country and the ideals on which it stands.

In closing, we want all members of our school community to remember that CSD was founded on the principles of inclusion and belonging and the value of each human as a unique individual. We believe that every child should come to the table feeling pride for their family and culture and having a sense of value within our greater community. Our goal is that every individual at CSD feels heard, seen, valued and respected and if ever that is in question please speak up. If a student walks away from a lesson or an interaction with a staff member feeling less than or judged in any way, then we want the opportunity to correct that error. Shame and judgment have no place in a learning community. When we discuss complex ideas and perspectives, it makes us ALL better.

Because we are intentional about being the COMMUNITY School of Davidson, exploring complex ideas together allows us to recognize our shared humanity and brings us together as a community while still acknowledging and celebrating the incredible importance of each person as a unique and cherished human.