



Great River School

Engaging intellect, shaping character, building community.

Dear GRS Caregivers,

The recent events in Ukraine are deeply troubling to us all and supporting our young people in coming to an understanding of such atrocities, especially in the adolescent program, has been front and center for many staff members in the building this week. I wanted to take a moment and share with you some of Great River's response to Russia's reprehensible invasion of a sovereign nation. Our vision for education states that we are a peacekeeping school, and so we do this work to speak out in the name of peace.

In the adolescent program, [we have been sharing resources](#) with staff for talking to students about crises as they are unfolding. Our Lower Adolescent Program Director Tami Limberg created a three period lesson (Montessori's term for an arc of lesson planning) for this week centered on Ukraine that has been shared with guides. This involves a background lesson and an invitation for students to learn more about the intricacies of the situation. The students explore, research, and take action - and in particular, think about how we as a community can take action.

In the elementary program, the work we've done varies from classroom to classroom. While we haven't taught lessons on the topic, that doesn't mean it isn't on our student's minds and in their hearts. We have focused on mental health support and the social workers have been checking in with students who have needed individualized conversations and support.

Recent events have been hard for us all to fully comprehend. If your child needs additional support, [please reach out to their level's social worker](#). In times such as these, it is important that we support each other and every member of our community. We stand together in solidarity against oppression in all its forms, whether it be right here in our community or in the world at large.

Peace,
David