

Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools

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Our schools are caring, creative, and equitable communities that empower all children to build on their talents and passions to grow into engaged citizens and life-long learners.



March 22, 2021

Dear MHS, MSMS, UES, RVS, MRPS Virtual Academy Students and Families,

Last week we learned of a horrible tragedy in the Atlanta area. In three separate shootings, a white man injured one Hispanic man and killed eight (seven of whom were identified as women; six of whom were identified as Asians). This horrific incident has raised fears the attack was racially motivated and has amplified worries in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community. The alleged shooter is in custody and being charged with several crimes, including murder. We are sending condolences and keeping all of those affected by this unspeakable tragedy in our thoughts.

We write today because we know people in our community are hurting. When one of our community members is hurting, we are all hurting. Violence, hate, harassment, racism, discrimination, bullying are all things that will not be tolerated in Montpelier Roxbury Public Schools. Today, we stand together with all of you to speak out against the increase in anti-AAPI hate crimes and ask that we show solidarity, making it clear our schools and communities are places where everyone will feel safe.

On March 19, 2020, a coalition of organizations in California launched the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center to “track and respond to incidents of hate, violence, harassment, discrimination, shunning, and child bullying against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.” From March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021, 3,795 incidents, ranging from verbal harassment to physical assault, were [reported](#). This latest incident in Georgia is just one example of the racism those of asian descent are facing in our country on a daily basis.

Within one week of his inauguration on January 26, 2021, the President of the United States issued a memorandum condemning and combating racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). We work as schools

to uphold this memorandum and express our support for the Montpelier Roxbury AAPI community.

Our greatest weapon to combat hate and racism is through the education our children receive in our homes and in our schools. We encourage you to have conversations with your children when difficult situations arise so that we stop this cycle of hate and learn how all of us can speak out and put an end to these horrible incidents. For resources on this topic, please review this [list](#) that we will continue to refine. As schools, we will continue to have hard conversations in our classrooms and work towards equity in all forms. We will be accountable to our community for this work as a way to combat racism and ensure all MRPS students feel a strong sense of belonging and support every single day. Our teachers and support staff are highly committed to this mission and we will continue to dedicate our professional development time to always grow and become better in this area.

We send our love and support to all that are impacted by these events and to anyone in our community that is hurting right now. We stand in solidarity with our families of Asian descent and their loved ones. In Montpelier and Roxbury we all belong and there is no room for hate.

Sincerely,

Katie Barea
MSMS Principal

Ryan Heraty
UES Principal

Renée DeVore
MHS Principal

Beth Kellogg
RVS Principal

Michael Berry
MRPS Virtual Academy Principal