



November 3, 2020: Together in Community

Dear CDS Community,

For many reasons, this year has been unique: our community is responding to the pandemic and has been active in the fight for racial justice, and we are now faced with the most complex national election in our history. And all of this as we are welcoming many students back to campus for in-person learning.

No matter what happens tonight, or tomorrow morning, or over the course of the next several days, I am proud of the CDS community and what we have been able to accomplish, and what we *can still* accomplish together. Our mission will continue to guide us. *As one of our values states: We believe that everyone can take responsibility, find the courage to act, and create change. Our students understand social justice issues and learn to advocate on behalf of themselves and others.*

We anticipate that members of our community will experience an array of emotions ranging from elation to devastation, joy to grief, hope to fear, relief to rage, and everything in between. Children may be confused and hurting in this political climate.

On Wednesday afternoon, the full faculty and staff will meet virtually as a team and discuss where we are at that point. These discussions will help shape further discourse that we will have with students, as we know they will have many questions. Throughout this, we continue to prioritize the needs of our students. This moment could lead us to our most important work yet.

As a parent AND an educator, I am well aware that we are modeling behavior, thoughts, and language choices for our children and students that will affect not only their learning but also their interactions with their friends and classmates. As adults, we have the responsibility of promoting our values in the larger community.

In this unusual year when we have had to nimbly react to one curveball after another, I want us to be prepared. One concern we have heard from some in our community is the

possibility of civil unrest around us over the next few days. The safety of this community has always been the highest priority. **Should we need to cancel in-person classes to keep our community safe, we will notify you by email (ParentSquare) and also via text and voicemail from our emergency notification system (One Call Now). We will be actively monitoring the situation and communicating as necessary.**

We know this election will have a real impact on people in different ways. Still, I am confident and hopeful for the future. I know that our democracy is resilient and will survive our divisions. I remain stubbornly optimistic that we will come out of this complex time stronger than we entered it.

Please be safe, be well, vote (if you have not yet), get your flu shot, and remember to breathe.

Warmly and in community,
Shelly