



June 1, 2020

Dear Boston Green Academy Community,

Recent national and local events have been very difficult for us all to watch and experience, specifically the violence in the streets of Boston last night, the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and other instances of racism in New York City, Georgia, and numerous other places. The sadness, anger, and concern that all of us feel come at an already challenging time as the COVID-19 emergency continues. We write so that you can know very clearly where Boston Green Academy stands: we love our students and families, care deeply about your well-being and safety, and want to ensure that everyone at BGA is always welcome, supported, and treated with dignity and respect.

The long history of racism in our country has created deep wounds that are struggling to heal. Not enough progress has been made, and BGA, as a school and a community, is committed to supporting and empowering all members of our community, especially students of color and their families. We stand in complete opposition to the racism and dehumanizing behavior that is directed towards the black community in America. We are united in our support for our students, families, staff and community as we fight for a more just and equitable society. Our school, whether in person or virtual, strives to be a place where respect and responsibility (two of our five core values) are part of everything we do. We stand committed to supporting those who are speaking out peacefully to make our society a better place. We continue to be allies in this work and will make sure BGA is a safe space for everyone. Everyone is welcome here.

To support our students and families at this difficult time, we are doing the following:

- Discussing current events in classes
- Providing supports for all students and families
- Creating spaces for students to continue the conversations
- Planning for meaningful action now and once the health emergency ends

If anyone- student or family member- needs support, please reach out to the BGA Student Support Team (contact information below), your teachers, or any BGA staff member for assistance. You can also email info@bostongreenacademy.org and we'll be sure to follow up. A list of additional resources for students and families can be found at the end of this letter.

As events continue to unfold, we urge each of you to participate in making positive change in our community, whether through peaceful protest, community service, acts of kindness, or however you decide. We are here to support you and look forward to a future where our students can each live life on their own terms, free of the legacy of racism we are all striving to combat today. Thank you for your continued support and please don't hesitate to let us know what you need and how we can help. Please stay safe and healthy and we look forward to being together again soon.

Sincerely,



Alexander Chu
Chair, Board of Trustees



Matthew Holzer
Headmaster

Contact Information if You Need Support:

- Mary Heney, Social Worker, mheney@bostongreenacademy.org
- Lauren Kelton, HS Social Worker, kelton@bostongreenacademy.org (español)
- Jodi Then, HS School Counselor, jthen@bostongreenacademy.org
- Vanessa Brea, MS School Counselor, vbrea@bostongreenacademy.org (español)
- Kelly Cotton, School Psychologist, kcotton@bostongreenacademy.org
- Brian Gonsalves, Director of Student Support and Middle School Social Worker, bgonsalves@bostongreenacademy.org
- Reggie Loving, Dean of Students, rloving@bostongreenacademy.org

Additional Resources (click on each for the link)

- [How to Talk About Traumatic Events and Tragedies](#)
- [Teaching About Race, Racism and Police Violence](#)
- [Resources on Trauma for Caregivers and Families](#)
- [Trauma Guides](#)
- [The National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)
- [15 Tips for Talking with Children About Violence](#)
- [A Practitioner's Guide to Educating Traumatized Children](#)
- [Facing History and Ourselves](#)
- [Facing Ferguson](#)