

Because Black Lives Matter

Viking family,

I wanted to share some thoughts I've been having this week and offer an open ear and heart to you--

As an interview team, our first question is "why do you think people experience poverty?" This question serves as a starting place for me to communicate my shared beliefs: there are no deficits in people; we live in a country founded on systems of racial oppression and social inequities. If the candidate shares said beliefs, then, inherently, he/she also believes that systems of inequity can be dismantled.

If you're lucky enough to hire every candidate with this shared mindset, you get our school family — W. A. Pattillo Middle School.

I know our school family joins me in mourning and condemning the deaths of George Floyd and [the countless others](#) who have been lost to inexcusable racism.

As a school, we all have a role to play in dismantling the systems of inequality. We are the community unit trusted to assist the next generation to process what they are currently seeing and experiencing while empowering children to advocate for themselves.

As evidenced by the academic growth our students are making, the trauma sensitive school we are embarking upon, and the curriculum units we are creating, I remain hopeful that our school helps stand in the gap between the current reality and the world which our children deserve.

I stand with you as we demand justice, equity, and healing for the students we serve, the communities in which they live, and the world they are destined to change.

I acknowledge that this is a difficult time. I may not have all of the answers (or any of them for that matter), but I do want to welcome you to share the space to talk with me about support you feel like you may need, conversations that need

to be had, etc. Sometimes, I find just hearing that someone agrees with you that “this is not okay” is enough to get through another moment of pain. I am happy to be that person for you.

And because I think it’s important to reiterate publicly: Black lives matter.

Yours in the fight,

Lauren A. Lampron, EdD

Principal

W. A. Pattillo Middle School