



Dear Ridgewood Families:

Like many of you, we are shocked and saddened by the events that have transpired over the last week. There may be young people in our school community who are experiencing fear, anxiety, grief or stress as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic along with the recent heartbreaking and tragic events in our nation.

We will continue to support our students, families, and community with empathy and compassion. Our school district has policies in place to make sure that everyone at Ridgewood High School is treated with respect, and is free from harassment, discrimination or bullying. We want to assure you that we remain committed to not only ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, staff and communities but also to lead with empathy and compassion as a united school community.

There has never been a more relevant time to strengthen the diversity, equity and inclusion work we started implementing with our staff this past year. The purpose of these training sessions was to better equip our teachers with the tools necessary to have conversations surrounding often sensitive issues. We are here to serve all students. From strengthening our curriculum, to all staff professional development opportunities, to evaluating hiring practices, Ridgewood stands committed to serving the needs of its diverse students.

Our community is filled and supported by people of color, newer migrants, long-standing residents and first responders, all who love and respect the villages that we have built. We know that our students need the education, tools and resources to navigate the great changes and work that lie ahead. We need your help echoing empathy, respect and love.

It is our District's priority to create a safe, open learning environment free of hate. No insults or actions related to ability, appearance, culture, gender, home language, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social class will be tolerated. It is our hope that together we can begin discussions with our kids to raise awareness and empathy about the harm done by racism and discrimination.

Sincerely,

The RHS Administrative Team