June 4, 2020

Dear Solvay Families,

Like so many, we have been stunned and flooded with emotions as a result of the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. We are deeply saddened for the Floyd family and all others who have been hurt and outraged by his tragic death. We recognize that the response to Mr. Floyd’s death across our country speaks to his death, as well as others who have died as a result of discrimination and oppression in our nation’s history.

We would like to assure you that during these uncertain and unsettling times, we remain steadfastly focused on providing all students an equitable opportunity to learn in accordance with our mission: “We develop confident, continual learners who are caring community members”.

The District does not and will not accept any discriminatory actions of any kind. While we strive to provide a safe, accepting, compassionate, and equitable learning environment for all students, the recent events bring to the forefront the importance of continuing to focus on this. The District will continue to reflect and review our practices to make improvements where needed to prepare our students to make a positive impact on our ever-evolving world by being accepting, kind, caring, and compassionate citizens.

We understand that this situation causes difficult and complex emotions. Please know that while we are not in face-to-face school because of the COVID situation we remain open and available to support our students and their families. We have noted a few resources below and will continue to find and share others. Our administration and counselors are available during normal school hours to support our students. Please reach out to us for support:

- Solvay Elementary School--(315) 488-5422
- Solvay Middle School--(315) 487-7061
- Solvay High School--(315) 468-2551

Resources:
- Teaching Tolerance - https://www.tolerance.org/
- American Psychological Association - Talking to kids about discrimination

We are grateful for our strong and supportive community.

Sincerely,

Jay Tinklepaugh, Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education

JT/ac