



June 5, 2020

Dear OFY Families,

Since its inception, OFY has been an advocate for tolerance, compassion, and equitable access to education. As such, OFY campuses have often been a haven for kids, many of whom have at some point felt uncomfortable in traditional school settings, have been bullied, harassed, or worse. Like many of you, we are heartsick for the family of George Floyd and incensed at the persistent evidence of institutional racism toward black men and women in this country. Today, we join the chorus of other voices demanding change, and encourage every member of our local and national communities to approach one another with an open heart and ask themselves how they too can become an advocate for equality.

Parents, we know talking to your children about racism and racial violence can be intimidating. The Center for Racial Justice in Education has put together this [list of articles and resources](#) to help guide you. It is important to remember that a conversation about race shouldn't be had only once; it should be an ongoing discussion. You may stumble, and that's ok. Just keep talking and encourage your children to do the same.

OFY staff is committed to social-emotional wellness, and is available to provide support beyond the academic needs of students. If they are struggling in any capacity, please reach out. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for being a part of the OFY family.

With Love,

Options For Youth Leadership