



June 3, 2020

Dear Worcester Academy Community,

I feel what many people feel in some combination right now—anger, sadness, confusion, loss, fear—as we all face the brutal reality of George Floyd’s murder in Minneapolis. Mr. Floyd’s death is part of a longer history of extreme violence against African-Americans and other marginalized groups in our country. This latest human rights violation has emphasized again the pointed cruelty and injustice faced by African-Americans.

Living in a world with repeated acts of hate, violence, and racism harms all of us. We must stand together against this mindset, these behaviors in society, and as members of the Worcester Academy community. We all have an obligation to be informed, to welcome diverse perspectives, to think critically, and to respond to these events responsibly. Achieving the Honorable obligates us to take action and to use our knowledge and empathy to lead the path forward to a better world.

As an educator and school leader, I am compelled to be audible and visible first and foremost in support of our students, employees, and alumni. Many Hilltoppers, particularly people of color, are experiencing tremendous pain right now. We respect and value our people. Worcester Academy is here to actively support and care for the people in our community even while we are physically apart.

We remain rooted in our Mission and Core Values as we continue the vital work of education and community building. We have enjoyed the thoughtful, eager engagement with these important issues from our community. This work leaves me hopeful about the future. The faculty are in dialogue with one another and sharing resources to enrich their teaching, curriculum development, and efforts to help students understand their world and the impact they can have. Bonnie Walker, Interim Director of Equity and Inclusion, wrote to our community ([Letter from Bonnie Walker, Interim Director of Equity and Inclusion](#)) last week to set the tone for our community response. Mrs. Walker and I both spoke to employees this week. She has organized listening and discussion sessions for all employees and students, and for directly affected affinity groups.

Addressing the challenges of our world is complex work without easy solutions. I hope that as members of the Worcester Academy community we will do our part to remain informed, connected, and working in partnership to bring about the change we need to improve our school, our communities, and the world. We will share resources to facilitate learning, support, and engagement in an upcoming community-wide communication.

Ron Cino
Head of School