



John Moffet School
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Monday, June 1, 2020

Good Morning, Moffet Community -

I hope and pray that this message finds you all safe this morning as we wake up to continued pain, unrest, and anger spilling into the streets of our country and our city. Together we are all hurting. There are so many questions and few answers, but what we do know is as a community we cannot let silence be one of those answers. All voices matter. All lives matter.

As entire communities, we are facing countless, persistent hardships as a result of COVID-19 while also enduring the painful systemic social injustices that plague our country. Though being socially distanced is not ideal for supporting our students through these tragedies, we are committed to using our time together with them to do just that.

Our students are brilliant and resilient, and they give us hope. As they bear witness to far-reaching racially and economically fueled violence, please know that we will support them in processing and understanding these events. We will work together to create safe, age appropriate spaces for them to discuss their concerns and to begin to surface the solutions of the next generation. Their voices, thoughts, and actions matter.

Our children may have a lot to share or may have nothing at all, but either way, those feelings are valid— if they are frustrated, confused, angry or even embarrassed— all feelings are valid in these moments. Allow them to express however they choose. We've encouraged our teachers to allow time for sketching, journaling and in some instances for our older students to have circle dialogues with one another. We're asking teachers to refer students to our counselor or to someone they trust in our schools if they are displaying distress and need more support.

We cannot give up on hope.

Education can help heal injustices.

In Partnership and Peace,

Rodney Johnson

Principal Johnson