



*Office of the President*

June 1, 2020

Dear Pine Crest School Community,

Three recent events in Minneapolis, Louisville, and Brunswick that led to the wrongful and unnecessary deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery serve as tragic reminders of the complex challenges facing our nation. Watching these events unfold has been heart-wrenching for us all, particularly for our African American students, families, faculty, and staff. We recognize the pain, fear, and alienation that members of our community are experiencing. We pray not only for the families of Ms. Taylor and Messrs. Floyd and Arbery, but also for a healing path forward for our country.

On behalf of our entire Senior Administrative team, we emphasize that Pine Crest is fully committed to providing all students with the opportunity to learn in an environment in which they feel safe and valued—one that enables them to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our classrooms are rich in diversity of thought, culture, socioeconomic status, and religion—and learning from others with diverse backgrounds and perspectives is a gift.

As an institution of learning, it is our responsibility and obligation to stand up for what is just, to respect the voices of every community member, and to build a safe and inclusive atmosphere for all. For many of our students, families, and employees, dealing with racial prejudice, hatred, and overt

forms of discrimination is a harsh reality, and when one of us hurts, we all hurt. The words we speak to one another and the actions we take must reflect our core values, and in all of our dealings, we must unambiguously reject racism, bias, and discrimination of any kind. Now, more than ever, we must come together as a school to support one another and promote justice and equity.

Moving forward, we will strengthen our efforts to facilitate a school community in which every face, voice, and experience is represented, welcomed, and supported. Last week, the three of us listened to our Black Student Association leaders. From our dialogue, we began to build upon a plan of action for how we can contribute to creating a more fair and just environment. We are so impressed with our students' intellect, candor, and ideas for ways we may begin working *today* to make Pine Crest even better *tomorrow*.

We are here to provide support to anyone feeling distressed or traumatized by current affairs, and we encourage you to reach out to any administrator or faculty member with whom you feel comfortable if we can help in any way. When we stand together to acknowledge the equal value of all members of the Pine Crest community, we can and will create a better and brighter future for us all.

Sincerely,

Dana Markham, Ed.D. '18H

President

Michele Stocker, Esq. '83

Chair, Board of Trustees

Joseph Walters '95

Head of Upper School