



Hello Heritage Elementary - Williams Community,

One of the things our school prides itself on is creating a sense of community. We understand that our school has an academic duty...but we also focus on the importance of character and teach the 6 traits of character within the school. In the past two weeks, like you, I have been watching and processing the recent local and national events.

Sadly, this atmosphere and the inequalities that are being brought to light (Black, Hispanic, and Native American included) show problems exist that cannot be ignored. As a school that preaches character and community, we will continue to be a voice that educates and learns. The racism, stereotypes, and oppression (loud and subtle) that people face every day must end. As a school, we have a moral obligation to meet the issue of racism head on. Our school will do our part to support a generation of young people to become part of the solution our country needs.

I also must recognize that it starts with me. In the coming school year, I will communicate with parents to identify ways in which our school can move forward as a change agent. This includes looking at our own blind spots as staff and administrators. I will ask “what can we do better?”, and I will listen to the answer with a heightened sensitivity. We will educate and encourage our student body to take active steps to address the racism that weighs heavily on people. We will not shy away from the tough discussions. **Respect, equality, and diversity** are a necessary component to a functioning society. I pledge to our Heritage families that I will work to uphold these values among our staff and students. We will do more to help students understand these powerful values, so that they can create a country that is stronger than it is right now.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please email me at kdannenberger@heswilliams.org.

Kind regards,

Kaytie Dannenberger
Principal
Heritage Elementary - Williams