The Chittenango Central School District Stands Unified to Affirm

Hate Has No Place in Our Community

In the Chittenango Central School District we ardently affirm that hate, in all its forms, has no place in our community. We passionately believe our students, staff and community members have a right to feel safe, supported and included in our school-family, regardless of race, religion, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or socio-economic status. We are a caring school community who pledges to one another our kindness, empathy, compassion, support and humanity. We acknowledge that racism, bigotry and hate remain a stain on the fabric of world history and understand that such evils persist today. Our collective work is not yet done and we recommit ourselves, our district and our community to the promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion in all we do. We do this and more because we are Chittenango…we are the solution.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.”

In the wake of events that have swept our country in recent weeks, it is tremendously important that we acknowledge our collective responsibility to engage in courageous conversations and speak out against hate, bias, prejudice, intolerance and discrimination.

As a District, **we know**, **we do** and **we feel** what is good for all members of our caring school community. Simply put, we must say with one voice that hate has no place in our community.

Our collective societal and ethical obligation should not only follow the reactive emotions of a national outcry, but be palpable in the proactive measures of our intentional community building efforts. Let us continue to be champions of equity and the **Positivity Project** mindset. Let us further exude the essence of **Rachel’s Challenge** and start a chain reaction of kindness. Most importantly, let us carry on our collaboration and further our conversations around an anti-bias culture while removing barriers that contribute to inequality. Much like the essence our work with **Wisdom Thinkers** and **My Brother’s Keeper**, let us change the narrative and write a new chapter in the story of humanity. We are the standard bearers of empathy, tolerance and kindness. We are Chittenango…we are the solution.

In the words of Dr. King Jr., “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

**Let us be the light, the love and the solution**.