Dear Chavez Community,

Black Lives Matter.

Last week, while entrenched in the midst of a global pandemic, we witnessed the horrific and senseless killing of George Floyd. His was one of several recent deaths that have further illuminated the perverse and systemic racism that plagues our country daily. Our community’s hearts go out to the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless others who are and have been the victims of racist structures.

Our mission is to empower and educate our scholars to create a more just, free, and equal world. To do this, we must stand with our community and denounce anti-Black violence and narratives that are pervasive across our nation. On Wednesday, June 3rd Chavez Schools will observe a “Day of Solidarity.” All classes will be suspended and all offices will be closed. We are outraged by the recent events and we condemn acts of violence against the Black community.

We stand with your pain caused by racial injustices and the trauma inflicted by watching another Black life killed. We stand with your anger as we watch peaceful protests ignored and violence incited against those who speak out against oppression. We stand with your pain as we grieve our Black loved ones who are dying of COVID-19 at disproportionately higher rates than any other community. We stand with you.

Guided by our school’s mission, we call on ourselves and our community to act. We invite our scholars to join our Culture Team on Thursday, June 4th at 5:00 pm as we come together to heal and support one another. As agents for change, we ask our community to use their voice and advocate. Today, June 2nd, is the DC Primary Election and the General Election is Tuesday, November 3rd. Make your voices heard and vote, or register to vote today: https://www.vote4dc.com/ApplyInstructions/Register

As we come together to battle racial injustice, we stand by the words of our namesake, Cesar Chavez: “You cannot uneducate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.”

In solidarity,
Dr. Kourtney Miller, Head of Schools
Ms. Ashley High, Chief Operations Officer
Mrs. Yasmine Julien, Assistant Principal of Instruction
Mrs. Kristy Ochs, Director of Special Education
Ms. Linda Bernal, Director of Scholar Life & Family and Community Engagement

CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY STARTS WITH US.