June 2, 2020

Dear Students, Families, Staff, and Community,

We are compelled as human beings, as educators, and as a country, to make the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis a defining moment of clarity and action. As a school district, Alhambra Unified pledges to work urgently to begin to heal the pervasive injustices that Black Americans, in particular, and all people of color, endure. We must also help our children make sense of these senseless acts.

To initiate real and lasting change, schools must be safe havens that focus on the most essential curriculum — one centered on the principles of justice, decency, dignity, and fairness — in order to stop internalized hate, bigotry and intolerance. We believe, like Nelson Mandela, in the power of empathy, honesty and dialogue to heal the most intractable wounds.

Longstanding racial inequities are multiplied by a pandemic that has ripped open those wounds for all to see. We must teach our children they can change the world by unifying it and it must start now.

As Superintendent, I vow to vigorously re-dedicate our district efforts to the most powerful weapon on earth for change — public education.

With profound commitment,
Denise R. Jaramillo
Superintendent
Alhambra Unified School District