HCISD Family,

Without question, 2020 has not been the year any of us predicted. We have seen political unrest, a global pandemic, economic distress, and racial tension in just 6 months into the year.

We are experiencing widespread outrage, anger, sadness, and reflection here at HCISD, throughout Texas and across our nation. The death of George Floyd and the ensuing protests have gripped the nation. As I watch these events unfold, I feel for those who are in pain and am aware that we must continue our struggle for meaningful and enduring change to overcome acts of racism and violence that can corrode a community and destroy our democracy.

These challenges come as we are already responding to the COVID-19 crisis, which has become so much more than a life-threatening disease. It has paused or disrupted many of the core elements of our daily lives, requiring students to adjust to learning remotely and threatening many individuals’ ability to keep their jobs and earn a living.

As your superintendent and a father of two HCISD graduates, now more than ever, I see education as the most effective antidote for injustice, inequality, and intolerance, and for the advancement and improvement of our society.

I’m proud of the work we have done to educate and celebrate diversity in our community. With the creation of five dual language academies, the implementation of International Baccalaureate schools, the recent opening of our World Languages Academy, and strong character education programs at every campus, we have made much progress over the years. However, while these programs are great examples of our commitment, we still have much more work to do.

Educational systems across our country including our HCISD community, have an obligation to do our part to prevent the racism and violence that are plaguing our nation. To that end, I am committing myself and my senior leadership team to work closely with our student leaders, faculty, staff and members of our community to enhance the capacity of every voice to be heard in order create inclusion and a collective impact.

It is important for our community to understand how critical and timely our recent partnership with the Holdsworth Center is. Holdsworth’s core mission is a commitment to equity and our partnership is creating opportunities for our senior team and principals to learn from the brightest minds and the best systems from Texas and around the world. This partnership gives us all hope as it will result in real solutions that can be a model for the state and the nation.
Although the issues we face have sharpened political rhetoric, it is not a political act to support each other, to offer kind words, to listen, to engage one another in thoughtful dialogue and ultimately to respect each other even when there is a difference in opinions. In doing so the marginalized become engaged and the conversation is enriched. We heal and grow from here by strengthening our connections, loving, and accepting each other and by staying involved.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Voting is the foundation stone of political action”. Dr. King could not have spoken truer words. We are blessed to live in a nation in which we choose our own leaders and we must continue to work to ensure that voices in every community are heard, respected and counted with active participation in our democratic process.

It is up to each of us, every day, to take steps to improve our community, state, and nation by getting involved and staying involved in those areas that are dear to our hearts. HCISD will continue to work together to find ways to engage our stakeholders across the district. Together we will remain committed to take action that leads to a better life for all our students.

Be proud that as an HCISD Family we will continue to Reach, to Aspire, and to Dare to Be because we are HCISD. May God Bless each of you and may God Bless HCISD.

Respectfully,

Art Cavazos, Ed.D.  
HCISD Superintendent of Schools