

Baldwin County Board of Education
A Charter System of Georgia

Lyn Chandler	P.O. Box 1188	Board of Education
Board Chair	110 N. ABC Street	Wes Cummings, Vice Chair
	Milledgeville, GA 31059	John Jackson
Dr. Noris Price	Ph (478) 453-4176 Fax (478) 457-3327	Dr. Gloria Wicker
Superintendent	www.baldwincountyschoolsga.org	Shannon D. Hill

Dear Baldwin County School District Families,

I am heartbroken by the recent events taking place across our nation. Locally and nationally, many have joined non-violent protests and other peaceful demonstrations against racial injustice. We should not ignore the fact that our students are witnessing these events and protests and have questions and concerns. That is only natural. In my 30 plus years working in education, I have learned that the truth is not always comfortable. Still, it is a vital key to understanding different viewpoints and reaching the promise of the constitution that promotes equal justice under the law for all Americans. We are amidst uncertainty on many fronts, and the conversations that we engage in with our children and adults have never been more important. Now is the time to build bridges and a strong foundation, to listen and to learn. Racism has taken center stage and it cannot be ignored. No matter how challenging and uncomfortable the subject may be, we must continue educating our children and each other about racial and social injustices.

As your superintendent and a mother of an African American male, I feel the emotional racial upheaval that our country is going through and the importance of working together to stamp out once and for all, the racism and bigotry that exist in our nation. Our country, which was founded on the premise of a more perfect union - one that allows for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, should apply to all Americans regardless of race, ethnicity, social-economic status, or station in life.

If ever there is a time for the phrase "It takes a village to raise a child," it is now. As adults, we must look out for ALL children in our community. We must now, more than ever, support the social-emotional well-being of our students. In our schools, we will continue to emphasize to our students that they are valued and appreciated as individuals. We want to empower our students to believe enough in themselves to know that they can be successful in life. But more importantly, our children must know that we love them and we will always be there for them.

The Baldwin County School District is committed to being a model of inclusivity and equity to ensure that we are a positive reflection of the community we serve. As a school district, we are

committed to providing our students as well as our teachers and staff with the resources and skills needed in order to work together to increase racial and cultural awareness. We must realize that our actions need to go beyond celebrating diversity in our schools to truly learning about different cultures. We must take a stance against hate and racism towards any person or group. Pursuant to our goal of educational fairness, our school district is committed to being an organization of dignity that fosters belonging for every person and group of people. We must continue to strive to create an environment where our students, families and employees feel safe, heard and supported. The BCSD Strategic Plan goals and initiatives focus on developing support systems and wrap-around services for students through community and statewide partnerships; establishing trauma-informed schools; ensuring a safe, secure, and orderly environment for all; and identifying resources and support services for the social and emotional development and health of all students.

I believe that public education is still the greatest option for America's children to receive a quality education. Through public education, any child, regardless of their race, ethnicity, station in life or socioeconomic status, can become a productive, contributing member of society and achieve the American Dream. The Baldwin County School District pledges to play a critical role in setting the tone for racial equality, equity, tolerance, dignity, and understanding in partnership with our community.

Sincerely,

Noris Price, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools