



# Skokie School District 73½

Oliver McCracken Middle School • John Middleton Elementary School • Elizabeth Meyer School

Ellen Correll  
Dr. John Correll  
Interim Superintendents

January 7, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians in Skokie District 73½,

We are reaching out to you today to reflect on the concerning events that took place in Washington, D.C. yesterday. We are very concerned about the hatred and divisiveness evidenced in yesterday's events. I believe I speak for myself, the administrative team, the Skokie District 73½ Board of Education and the staff in our district that hate and violence will not be tolerated in our school or our community.

I want you to know that our school district is ready to support you and your children. We understand this may be a confusing time for students and we want to be sure we give our students the safe space they need to have a dialogue and ask questions. The staff in Skokie District 73½ are prepared to discuss today's events with compassion and empathy. We will do our very best to answer questions and listen, even if we don't have all of the answers. In Skokie District 73½, we believe in embracing the values of decency, safety, and respect for all people.

As you are engaged in conversations about these events with your own children, we know that it is a tough topic. You know your children best, but in case you need additional ideas for how to process today's events, we have provided some resources with this communication to help you talk to your children.

During this time, we must support one another. Our hope is that as our students come to understand and process these sorts of events, they will be equipped with the skills to think critically and ask questions to gain the knowledge needed to make decisions now and in the future.

As always, please contact any member of the administrative team if we can be of further support to your family in any way. In Skokie District 73½ we value a strong sense of community and if there was ever a time to come together it is now. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership!

Respectfully,

John H. Correll, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent

#### Resources:

- **National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)** is a school psychology organization that works to advance effective practices to improve students' learning, behavior, and mental health.
  - [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)
- **Teaching Tolerance** is an organization that strives to help teachers and schools educate children and youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy.
  - [When Bad Things Happen: Help Kids Navigate a Sometimes Violent World](#)
- **National Public Radio** is an independent nonprofit news organization that provides parents with practical tips on how to talk to children as news unfolds.
  - [What to Say to Kids When the News is Scary](#)