

Dear Members of the Portsmouth Schools Community,

These are unprecedented times for our young people. While they were still processing how to deal with having their lives uprooted with very little warning from COVID-19 they are now witnessing our nation struggle with unresolved issues of racism, inequity, and violence.

As the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others have shown, all schools need to work harder to collectively teach our young people to honor the differences in others while celebrating the diversity that is truly a strength of our nation. We must never forget that we are raising the next generation of leaders. We must give them the tools that will help guide us towards becoming a more compassionate and just society.

The Portsmouth School Department is committed to providing safe, equitable, and supportive learning environments for each and every student. There are many teachable moments in the current situation that we will seek to use to educate our students. We will never tolerate hatred or racism and must model the ability to respect differences while also respecting the laws that govern our society.

Please encourage your children to reach out to a teacher, principal, school counselor, or other trusted adult if they need support in helping to navigate these uncertain times. If anyone in our PSD community has concerns that you would like to discuss with me, please feel free to contact me directly at any time.

I am proud to be the leader of this district and appreciate all that makes our community great.

Tom Kenworthy
Superintendent
kenworthy@portsmouthschoolsri.org