

## From Bad to Worse



Dear High Point Parents & Families,

It's already been a very, very difficult time for American families across the nation dealing with the COVID-19 crisis and the immeasurable toll it's been taking on all facets of our lives — financially, physically, mentally, socially, emotionally. But then the overwhelming tragedy that took place in Minneapolis on May 25 intensified this time of crisis even more, leaving us reeling in hurt and pain as events unfold. Your children are undoubtedly seeing images and coverage of this pain, and so we want to make sure our High Point School community knows that we are here for you and for our students during these incredibly tumultuous times.

The thing is, although we feel united with our families in our outrage and grief, we also can't ignore the fact that we're apart — that the very concept of "distance learning" creates distance. If our students were physically at school with us, we would be in a position to read their moods and needs and adjust our supports and responses accordingly. For our older students, for example, we would be able to have constructive dialogues and give them an opportunity to express their opinions and feelings, whatever they might be: fury, despair, fear, sadness — whatever they needed to discuss. For our younger students, we would be able to closely monitor behavior and evaluate their emotional needs. For all students, we would be able to identify opportunities to address, in person, the value of compassion, true equality for everyone, and human kindness.

During this time of remote learning, however, it is much more difficult to gauge what our students need or how we can help. Our staff will endeavor to assist them remotely, of course, and are continually focused on ways to promote respect for others ... but we need your help. We need your eyes and ears to let us know if your child is having difficulty processing all of these recent happenings and making sense of things that seem senseless.

If you are struggling with ways to discuss current events with your children, these resources are a good start:

- [Helping Children Cope: Tips for Talking About Tragedy](#)
- [Talking to Children About Tragedies and Other News Events](#)

We also encourage you to reach out to your child's social worker and/or teaching staff with any concerns you have or recommendations of how we can help. We're here working every day, ready to lend assistance. Missing our kids every day is nothing compared to the frustration of not being able to be there for them when they likely need us the most.

Sincerely,  
Your High Point Family