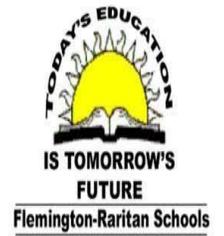


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
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January 7, 2021

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Community Members,

The events yesterday evening in Washington, D.C., were shocking and disheartening. As educators, we utilize a nonpartisan approach to educate our students about our country's history of conflict to learn and grow into a stronger, more democratic nation. To see our nation's Capitol invaded and vandalized is a sad reflection on our nation.

Many students may have seen these events unfold and could have questions and concerns. My own children and I spoke this morning about the events in Washington, D.C. The images my children saw on social media only continued to add to their concern for our nation and our community.

Discussions between adults and children in difficult situations can be an opening for reinforcing a sense of security and allowing students to process their feelings in a safe environment. Please be assured that our educators are dedicated to providing a neutral forum for dialogue and will promote respectful and civil discourse during any discussions that arise.

Last night our curriculum team, through the leadership of Dr. Michelle Cook, Social Studies and Language Arts Supervisor, and Mr. Dan Bland, the Assistant Superintendent, shared with teachers multiple resources to support reflection and discussion about civil discourse and ideas on how to care for students in the wake of a traumatic news event. Teachers were supported to welcome our students into our schools and into virtual learning environments today. It is likely that some teachers found that some students had little to no knowledge of the events of yesterday evening while others may have known a great deal and may be looking for support. Dr. Cook has shared two resources that may be helpful to you as parents:

1. <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/news.html>
2. <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/explaining-the-news-to-our-kids>

Our dedicated teachers and counselors are available to you should you need any assistance in addressing these events with your children. Please reach out to us.

My best to all of our families, and I hope you are all happy, safe, and healthy.

Wishing you good health,

Dr. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools