



CREATING EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE

Dear Families,

We believe black lives matter, black lives are precious, black lives are Christ. We believe we are all children of God, each of us made in His image. We believe God made us for life, a life full of loving Him so we can reach out and love each other (Genesis 1:27, 2:7, John 10:10, and Luke 10:27).

Our black community, God's children are hurting, angry, frustrated, and weary. We cannot walk by continuing our lives. God call's us to be His hands and feet. To be the Good Samaritan and make a difference in a world that is hurting, actions rooted in love for others (Luke 10:25-37).

When we were born, God breathed his breath, and we entered this world a precious child born with no preconceived notions or prejudices. A child who learned from their surroundings, seeking guidance, growing up with the values we heard, but more importantly, witnessed.

We, as educators count it a blessing to serve your family by instilling God's values through our mission: *to develop each student's God-created identity (mind, body, and spirit) through project-based experiential learning growing children who love God, pursue excellence, live health, and serve others.*

We live this mission daily, growing our children to feel whole within themselves. Give them a confident voice to stand up for what is right. Stand up against hateful words and actions. Give them the power to keep going because they know the result of peace is worth the struggle.

We emphasize the need to see one another as our equal because we are all children of God. We embrace our differences, respect opinions, and create fairness because, in our difference, we find God. When we look at each other, we see a new dimension of God at work in His children. One which holds diversity and equality as its core.

We value race and culture, not just to learn about but to experience to feel to embrace. We strive to shape the perspectives of our children, building their capacity to live with empathy as they lovingly impact our community.

We give these difficult 'teachable' moments the attention they deserve. We spend the time to talk through these situations as we know through these discussions, we are allowing our children to discover the power of human connection. Allow for exploration of feeling and expression. Allow the freedom of voice, knowing together we will be stronger! Allow for values to form into action, shaping character and beliefs.

As Dr. Martin Luther King stated, "the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

This coming school year, you will find more resources to allow our students to experience God's world and build their character in Him. As we incorporate the [International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme](#) into our school's philosophy, you will find a greater global perspective with a renewed emphasis for service to each other and our community. You are an integral part of gaining a global perspective and serving our local community. We are blessed with families at our school from nearly 20 countries! By hearing your story, we can grow our village in knowledge, love, and the richness of life.





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While we prepare to re-open, in this time apart, to support your family, we have compiled a collection of resources specifically about engaging children productively in conversations about race. We also invite you to share the resources that you've found to be helpful and to stand with us at this moment for life and love:

- BBC: [Crossing Divides: The friends who are good for your brain](#)
- Focus on the Family: [How to talk with your kids about racial differences](#)
- Character Lab: [My Values Activity](#)
- National Museum of African America History & Culture: [Talking About Race](#)
- Healthy Children: [Talking to Children About Racial Bias](#)
- National Geographic: [Talking to kids about race](#)
- COR360: [Equity Through Our Children's Eyes](#)
- New York Times: [These Books Can Help You Explain Racism and Protest to Your Kids](#)

We are more inspired than ever about the importance of our work as educators serving God's children. We come together to support our community, love each other, and to be God's light in this world.

Be safe, be well, be blessed,

Nalani & Derek Cummings
Head of Mission & School

Gemma Wise-Beaumont
Head of Academics

Enid Mendez
Head of Operations

Anthony Giakoumelos
Dean of Early Childhood

