



Malberg Administration Building
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January 8, 2021

Dear Cherry Hill Public Schools Community,

This has been a difficult week for our community and for the country as a whole, as news and images of the violent insurrection at the Capitol on January 6 were shared live – and continue to be shared repeatedly on news broadcasts and feeds. This event came on the heels of news from Kenosha, WI, that no charges would be filed in the shooting in August of Jacob Blake.

I have received communication from community members and members of our staff, comparing their feelings during this time to their feelings immediately after September 11, 2001. Our teachers, guidance counselors and administrators were faced on January 7 with another “day after,” another situation in which students came to class shouldering varying degrees of awareness, anxiety and perceptions of what occurred and its aftermath. Age-appropriate discussions took place in classrooms, with breakout sessions arranged as needed, at all grade levels. I expect that the effects of the events on January 6 will continue to reverberate for all of us, including our students, for some time. Our guidance counselors and student assistance counselors are always available via their email addresses on our school websites and will respond quickly to students and families who reach out. Additional support resources, including how to help children cope with traumatic events, are listed on the [Student Assistance page of our District website](#).

Our focus as a district is to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which our students learn and grow, whether in a virtual format or in person. As a National District of Character, we continue to weave our three core values of character, Respect, Responsibility and Citizenship, into our curriculum and everyday interactions. We continue our dedicated work in Cultural Proficiency, Equity and Character Education to strengthen these crucial aspects of education.

I am confident that as a community, we can make an especially concerted effort to model kindness. Our children are watching, always. Words matter. Above all, please be kind.

I encourage you to reach out to me at jmeloche@chclc.org if you would like to share your thoughts or request a phone conversation.

Please stay safe and well.

Regards,

Dr. Joseph N. Meloche
Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools