



The Public Schools of Brookline
Brookline Town Hall
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Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

August 31, 2017

Dear Families,

The start of each school year brings with it much hope and great excitement. Excitement lies in the return to friendships built over many years, and in the anticipation of new friendships yet to be forged. It also rests in the anticipation of the new knowledge, new skills, and new paths that the new school year will bring. The end of August brings us to the shores of a wide open sea filled with optimism and new adventures yet to come. Our teachers and staff are working hard to ensure that your child and each and every student in our schools achieves their full potential.

As we enter this school year, we must fully consider the events of Charlottesville, where hate, racism, and anti-Semitism not only came out of the shadows, but were given an undeniable and deeply disturbing platform and endorsement in our country. This August showed us that hatred in its many forms -- long present in our country, our state, our town and our schools -- now has a prominence and a forum that is unfathomable and shameful.

The Public Schools of Brookline unequivocally rejects racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, and xenophobia in all its forms. We further reject the systematic and expanding discrimination directed toward so many in our society. We reject hate and hate language in all its forms.

The Public Schools of Brookline believes in the individual dignity and the humanity of each and every person in our community. We embrace everyone for who they are and for what they bring to our schools and our community. Our schools are places where everyone is safe and valued. The measure of our commitment will come through our actions. Charlottesville is our call to face and address the inequities that continue to exist in our schools. I call on us all to commit to ensuring that all students in the Public Schools of Brookline achieve equitable and exceptional outcomes.

Our commitment to this incredibly important work must be guided by the following principles:

- **Equity Matters.** Every student in our schools is someone's *entire world*. By ensuring equity in opportunity and equity in outcomes, we live by our words when we say that all students are capable of achieving excellence.
- **The Classroom Matters.** Teaching is our most sacred work, and it is through the centrality of the classroom that we will ensure all students are given a high quality education. It is my job to support principals, who in turn support educators, so students receive the opportunities and supports that they need and deserve.

- Instruction Matters. We meet the needs of all learners, of every individual in our schools, by providing high quality instruction and learning opportunities for every student every day in all our schools.
- Collaboration Matters. We do our best by working together. We will collaborate in ways that build on our strengths, celebrate our successes, and allow us to face our challenges openly and honestly.

Committed to these four pillars, the work of the Public Schools of Brookline will continue to strengthen our culture of collaboration and respect throughout our schools. Our work together will continue to balance a commitment to high expectations and equity across all schools while allowing for autonomy and creativity within each school community.

We know that, as educators, we have the awesome responsibility for doing all that we can to educate each student so they can reach their hopes and dreams. I speak for all of our staff when I say thank you for entrusting us with this responsibility and for offering your ongoing support.

The sea of opportunity before us is vast and filled with hope. I look forward to our journey together this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Bott', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent