



# UNION COUNTY VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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**Mrs. Gwendolyn S. Ryan**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

June 3, 2020

Dear UCVTS Community,

In different ways, we are all processing the news of the death of George Floyd and the resulting public protests taking place all over our Nation. We are deeply saddened and disturbed by what took place on May 25th in Minneapolis and by similar tragedies that have happened far too often throughout our Nation’s history. These events impact our entire community and may affect the social/emotional well-being of both students and adults. We are working to address the impact on our students and community by providing a safe space for students to discuss the significance of these events and are committed to providing resources to affect positive change and to support growth through learning.

While processing and discussing these events with students, we see passion, determination, sadness, anger, and frustration in our community. Additionally, there have been instances where discussions between students about how to best bring about positive change have started out productively, but later escalated. We have initiated and will continue to initiate conversations with individual students, and groups of students, to help them process and express their feelings and to empower their constructive action.

We encourage you to openly discuss with your child their reactions and feelings. School counselors are available to speak with students remotely and we encourage students to reach out to their counselors at any time. Please make us aware if you think your child could benefit from having a school counselor reach out directly.

Below please find a list of additional supports which are available to families to facilitate difficult discussions and learning opportunities for students:

Resources for Families	
<a href="#">Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup</a>	Written By <a href="#">Katrina Michie</a>
<a href="#">Social Justice Resources</a>	The Children’s Community School
<a href="#">How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism</a>	<a href="#">Parent Toolkit</a>
<a href="#">Beyond the Golden Rule - A Parent’s Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice</a>	Teaching Tolerance
<a href="#">How to Teach Kids About Taboo Topics</a>	TED Talks
<a href="#">Talking to Kids About Race</a>	National Geographic
<a href="#">Resources for Talking About Race, Racism, and Radicalized Violence with Kids</a>	From: <a href="#">Center for Racial Justice in Education</a>

We would like to invite our entire UCVTS community to be a part of ongoing conversation and work to provide students with skills and opportunities to make the world a better place. We will take time to carefully consider long-term goals and initiatives. However, in the meantime please reach out through counselors and/or building administrators with thoughts and ideas.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn S. Ryan  
Superintendent of Schools