

Statement on the Atlanta Tragedy

Principal Swanson

March 22, 2021

Today I'd like to take a moment for our school community to remember and reflect on the tragedy that happened in Atlanta last week. Last Tuesday night, eight people were murdered in horrific shootings, and most of them were women of Asian descent. Especially in the context of rising prejudice and violence targeting Asian Americans, this incident calls further attention to a problem with deep and troubling roots in our nation's history. Here at our school, as we remember those who lost their lives in Atlanta last week, and in solidarity with others across the country who share an abiding concern about the rising trend of hate crimes, let us pause for a moment of silence...

The events of last Tuesday have resonated across the United States and heightened the fear felt by many members of the Asian American and Pacific Island community. The outrage should be shared by all of us. Any act of terrorism represents an attack on all of us, an affront to human dignity, and an assault on *all* of our best values. We live in a world that contains enormous suffering, so much of it fueled by prejudice, bigotry and hatred. Today, let us reaffirm our love and support for the Asian American members of our own community. And let us all recommit to building a world that is better. Please do everything you can, today and every day, to spread kindness and show concern for others. In that way, you'll honor the lives that were lost last week, and you'll help to move our school -- and our world -- closer to being the kind of place we all want it to be. Thank you.