



Preparing every student to thrive in a global society.

January 17, 2017

Dear East Side Community,

In the United States, we have always had a peaceful transition of power between presidents. President Obama and his administration have demonstrated a high level of professionalism during this transition just as former President Bush did for him. There has been a great deal of media coverage regarding the Presidential Inauguration that will take place this Friday, January 20, in Washington, D.C. This election was, by far, the most divisive election in my lifetime. This election has itself become a point of protest for women, Muslim communities, immigrants, and people who care about education, Social Security, Medicare and a whole list of other issues, which has prompted the planning of protests throughout the United States. The largest planned protest is the day after the Inauguration, the Women's March on Washington.

As educators, we have the incredible opportunity to use the presidential election and the Trump Inauguration as learning opportunities to help promote social justice in a way that actively engages our students. The activities, discussions, and student production that we choose to plan around the inauguration are opportunities to further develop the 5Cs described in our Graduate Profile. We need to provide a safe environment for our students during the Presidential Inauguration this Friday. I encourage students and staff to reach out to each other and work together on shared, peaceful activities at our school sites. Listening to the Inauguration is an appropriate activity, as well as providing the space for students to process Trump's first presidential address. Providing these types of activities is a critical responsibility and opportunity for our educational institutions.

Regardless of the activity, we will stay neutral, share the facts, allow for both sides of an issue to be shared and create a safe place in our classrooms and at our school sites for discussion to take place. We need to follow the example set by President Obama and engage in activities that support the peaceful transition of power between Presidents.

I thank you in advance for staying in school, staying respectful and engaging in meaningful dialogue around the upcoming Presidential Inauguration on Friday, January 20, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CDF".

Chris D. Funk
Superintendent

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