



# Wissahickon School District

## *True Blue with a Heart of Gold*

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June 3, 2020

### A Message to Our Community...

The Wissahickon School District prides itself on its strong sense of community, a community where our students feel safe, included, and respected. It is incredibly important that our students are able to learn valuable life lessons as a part of their educational experience. The recent events taking place across our country will naturally cause students to be confused and to question both what is happening and why it is happening. Toward that end, we want to support them in making sense of these events.

At this time, it is more important than ever that we come together as a community, to be compassionate and empathic in our interactions, and reach deep within ourselves to embrace the humanity that binds all of us here in Wissahickon, and across our nation. Wissahickon remains committed to these values and recognizes that the “difference makers” of the future are sitting in our classrooms today. Through our continuing partnership with University of Pennsylvania’s Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence and Equity, our ongoing efforts in character education, and our future work in the realm of Social and Emotional Learning, we continue to foster a learning environment where each and every student develops the capacity to achieve his/her full potential and acquires the tools to make a difference in our world.

Many of you have already reached out to a counselor or teacher and asked for some guidance in talking with your child about what they are viewing in the news. Wissahickon prides itself on the relationships between our students and their teachers/counselors. Now more than ever, it is important that our students can engage with you, their parents, and trusted adults at school and in the greater community to voice their concerns and ask their questions.

If you or your child needs support as a result of the current events, we encourage you to reach out to your child’s teacher(s) or counselor. Included below is a directory of our schools’ counselors and their e-mail addresses along with a listing of some resources that may be helpful in guiding conversations with your child(ren)

Sincerely,

*James A. Crisfield*, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
*Gary W. Abbamont*, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Wissahickon School District

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## Wissahickon School Counselors

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School	Counselor	E-Mail Addresses
Blue Bell	Phyllis Burke	<a href="mailto:pburke@wsdweb.org">pburke@wsdweb.org</a>
Lower Gwynedd	Jessica Moon	<a href="mailto:jmoon@wsdweb.org">jmoon@wsdweb.org</a>
Shady Grove	Rebecca Twiford	<a href="mailto:rtwiford@wsdweb.org">rtwiford@wsdweb.org</a>
	Donna Wolfert	<a href="mailto:dwolfert@wsdweb.org">dwolfert@wsdweb.org</a>
Stony Creek	Janice Walsh	<a href="mailto:jwalsh@wsdweb.org">jwalsh@wsdweb.org</a>
Wissahickon Middle	Augustus Balassano, Jr.	<a href="mailto:gbaldassano@wsdweb.org">gbaldassano@wsdweb.org</a>
	Suzanne Romano (Grade 6)	<a href="mailto:sromano@wsdweb.org">sromano@wsdweb.org</a>
	Steven Ebert (Grade 7)	<a href="mailto:sebert@wsdweb.org">sebert@wsdweb.org</a>
	Rebeca Agler (Grade 8)	<a href="mailto:ragler@wsdweb.org">ragler@wsdweb.org</a>
Wissahickon High	See Listing of Counselors at website	<a href="https://www.wsdweb.org/schools/wissahickon-high-school/counseling">https://www.wsdweb.org/schools/wissahickon-high-school/counseling</a>

## Parent Resources

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- Beyond the Golden Rule (A Teaching Tolerance Publication)  
[https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond\\_golden\\_rule.pdf](https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond_golden_rule.pdf)
- Discussing Difficult Situations with Your Children (National PTA)  
<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/health/Emotional-Health/Discussing-Difficult-Situations-With-Your-Children>
- Talking About Race – I Am a Parent or Caregiver  
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race/audiences/parent-caregiver>
- Talking Race with Young Children (NPR Video – Difficult Conversations)  
<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children>
- Resources for Parents: Uplifting Youth Through Healthy Communication About Race (American Psychological Association) <https://www.apa.org/res/parent-resources/>
- Talking to children after racial incidents (Professor Howard Stevenson, University of Pennsylvania)  
<https://www.gse.upenn.edu/news/talking-children-after-racial-incidents>
- What do we tell our children? (USA Today)  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/05/31/how-talk-kids-racism-racial-violence-police-brutality/5288065002/>
- Discussing Hate and Violence with Children (Anti-Defamation League)  
<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/discussing-hate-and-violence-with-children>