



Lebanon Public Schools

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Dear Students, Parents, Lebanon Public School Team, and Lebanon Education Community,

In mid-March we closed our schools and began our journey separated but together, to keep ourselves and each other safe from a common scourge of COVID-19. Closing schools and other aspects of our daily lives, social distancing from family members and friends, and the overall disruption of our lives and lack of human contact has been saddening. It has also fostered a sense of hope that we will come out of this situation more resilient, with a willingness to confront threats head on and with a determination to make things better.

I recently wrote in an email to our 5th through 12th grade students, "My heart goes out to all of our students and my hopes are that all of us come through this situation stronger, with a heightened awareness of how much we all mean to each other and with a focus on moving forward in a unified way." This holds true with the racial and civil unrest we are now facing. Biases of any type can be harmful, but racism is particularly heinous. While George Floyd was not a citizen of Lebanon, he was a fellow American and citizen of the World. In other words, Mr. Floyd was one of us, deserving of recognition for good he brought into the world and deserving to be held accountable for wrongs. And, as any of us, he was always deserving of being treated with human dignity.

The Lebanon Public School's logo states that we are "a Community of Learning". At Convocation at the start of this school year, I addressed the LPS Team and told them that an equally poignant motto is "The Future Begins with the Lebanon Public Schools". We urge our students to stand for justice, listen respectfully to the voices of others and come to the aid of people in need. As in indicated in our Mission Statement and Portrait of the Graduate, we are focused on providing our students with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful adults in a diverse global society, bring peaceful resolution and effect positive change.

It is my sincerest hope that love will prevail.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Angeli
Superintendent of Schools

Resources for Discussing Racism with Children

<https://www.tolerance.org/topics/race-ethnicity>

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/race-talk-engaging-young-people-in-conversations-about>

<https://coolmompicks.com/blog/2019/05/08/tips-for-hard-talks-parents-have-with-kids/>

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Discipline/Critical Work of Racial Identity Development Presentation.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Discipline/Critical_Work_of_Racial_Identity_Development_Presentation.pdf)

<https://blog.usejournal.com/31-childrens-books-to-support-conversations-on-race-racism-and-resistance-9dbabc28360e>

Lebanon Public Schools Strategic Plan 2019-2024

Mission Statement: The Lebanon Public Schools, in partnership with families and the community, will prepare students to be contributing members of a diverse global society. We will provide a safe, nurturing, rigorous, and student-centered learning environment.

Portrait of a Graduate

To ensure that students have the necessary skills and dispositions to accomplish our mission, the school community has identified six qualities that each student should develop over their Pre-K-12 experience and demonstrate prior to graduation. These six qualities and their attributes will focus and anchor the work of the district as we move towards a mastery-based and student centered learning framework for students at all levels.

Responsible Citizen

A responsible citizen collaborates with diverse people to accomplish community goals through democratic processes. They manage themselves and their resources in a way that is beneficial to their community. A student who demonstrates the qualities of a responsible citizen:

- Respects diverse people, cultures, and viewpoints when addressing a variety of issues;
- Contributes to the betterment of their community;
- Applies their understanding of democratic processes to participate in community decisions;
- Advocates for themselves and others;
- Manages time and materials appropriately; and
- Makes ethical and responsible decisions.

Effective Communicator

An effective communicator clearly conveys their ideas using the appropriate medium. They adjust their presentation of ideas as needed to better reach their audience. A student who demonstrates the qualities of an effective communicator:

- Uses a multitude of platforms (digital and analog) to meaningfully express ideas;
- Articulates and defends their viewpoint clearly in writing, in media and orally;
- Applies the conventions of their chosen communication medium appropriately; and
- Adapts their communication to the needs of a particular audience.

Critical Thinker

A critical thinker asks thought provoking questions and seeks out accurate information to answer those questions. They assess the validity of ideas and opinions by drawing on their experiences and on data. A student who demonstrates the qualities of a critical thinker:

- Asks appropriate and insightful questions;
- Supports an argument with accurate, relevant, and compelling evidence;
- Seeks out a range of information to inform their opinion and evaluates it critically;
- Recognizes bias and differences in perspective in self and others; and
- Connects new learning to prior knowledge.

Innovative Problem Solver

An innovative problem solver thinks flexibly when analyzing and reflecting on their work. They attempt challenging problems and persevere in solving them. A student who demonstrates the qualities of an innovative problem solver:

- Engages in challenging work by developing plans to accomplish it;
- Develops flexible and/or creative solutions;
- Analyzes and evaluates situations to draw conclusions and troubleshoot issues; and
- Reflects on successes and failures and persists in improving their work.

Lifelong Learner

A lifelong learner builds knowledge and skill through practice and the application of appropriate learning strategies. They possess a well-rounded pool of background knowledge and skills, which they can leverage to address their areas for growth. A student who demonstrates the qualities of a lifelong learner:

- Articulates their current strengths and weaknesses as a learner;
- Develops healthy coping strategies to compensate for areas of personal difficulty;
- Applies their understanding of growth mindset to the learning of new skills/knowledge;
- Demonstrates an understanding of the fundamental concepts within a discipline; and
- Identifies community organizations that offer assistance and learning opportunities beyond those available in their school.

Engaged Collaborator

An engaged collaborator actively participates in and makes beneficial contributions to group endeavors regardless of their role. They can switch between leadership and supporting roles easily, as well as give and act on appropriate feedback. A student who demonstrates the qualities of an engaged collaborator:

- Listens to and values the contributions of others;
- Accepts feedback and adapts ideas;
- Contributes to a group goal both independently and interdependently; and
- Works effectively in both leading and supporting roles.