



May 16, 2022

Dear Washington Township Public Schools Community,

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, the Washington Township Public School District was stunned and upset regarding the news of another hate-motivated mass shooting in Buffalo, N.Y., coupled with the news of a mass shooting at a California church on May 15, 2022. These tragedies require us to encourage one another to unite in our opposition to all forms of intolerance and hate.

As we take pause to remember the lives lost, we encourage everyone in the WTPS community to take advantage of this chance to reflect on our commitment to WTPS being a No Place for Hate district. Through this core value, we celebrate the diversity of our students and staff and will continue our endeavor to extend opportunities for students and staff to embrace diversity, advance inclusion, and increase a sense of belonging.

Although we have become accustomed to these repeated calamities, we must never be tolerant of their occurrence. No matter how frequently they occur, we must never be numb and do what we can to stop all forms of hate.

We would also like to reaffirm that WTPS strives every day to create a secure and inviting environment for our students to study and grow. These supports are evident in our policies and procedures to ensure that every member of the WTPS community has the opportunity to learn and work in an atmosphere free of bullying and harassment.

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, transgender status, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability, and we continue our dedicated work in Cultural Responsiveness, Equity, and Character Education to ensure that these vital areas of education are continually improved.

Diversity and mutual support are what make us strong as a community.

I encourage you to reach out to me at [jalexander1@wtps.org](mailto:jalexander1@wtps.org) to share your thoughts or request a phone conversation. As always, please stay safe and well.

Regards,

*Dr. J. Alexander*

Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)  
Washington Township Public Schools