

School Practitioner Community of Practice
(A network for sharing & exchange)
(6/1/20)

Special Edition

**>The murder of George Floyd and
the events that have and will continue to follow**

From the Center for MH in Schools & Student/Learning Supports, UCLA

Please feel free to share with anyone you think might benefit

Excerpts from statements by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. When you are right you cannot be too radical; when you are wrong, you cannot be too conservative. A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.

From his speech about "The Other America" (at Grosse Pointe High School March 14, 1968) http://www.gphistorical.org/mlk/mlkspeech/mlk_gp_speech.pdf

We've got to get rid of two or three myths that still pervade our nation. One is the ... notion that only time can solve the problem of racial injustice. ... many sincere people ... [say] you should slow up, you're pushing things too fast, only time can solve the problem. And if you'll just be nice and patient and continue to pray, in a hundred or two hundred years the problem will work itself out. There is an answer to that myth. It is that time is neutral. It can be used either constructively or destructively.

For discussion and interchange:

>The murder of George Floyd and the events that have and will continue to follow

Every superintendent, every school board member, every principal, every teacher, every student support staff member is having thoughts about what to say to students about these events. As Dr. King always stressed, the time for productive action is now.

The events are what folks call "teachable moments." And for those concerned with promoting social and emotional development and those concerned with students' (and staff) mental health, these critical matters must be addressed with a sense of urgency.

Over the long run, we know that schools must make transformative institutional changes to ensure equity of opportunity for all students at school. Plans for school re-openings can initiate first steps in the transformation.

Equity of opportunity at school is fundamental to enabling civil rights.

We hope you will be willing to share what you think schools can and should do about these matters at this critical time

- and
- (a) immediately through whatever ways they are communicating with students
 - (b) in planning transformative institutional changes at schools.

Please send your ideas and plans to us, and we will share them through the next edition of this community of practice forum. Send to Ltaylor@ucla.edu .

*For those who have been forwarded this and want to receive the
Community of Practice directly, send an email to Ltaylor@ucla.edu*

*For previous postings of community of practice discussions, see
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/practitioner.htm>*
