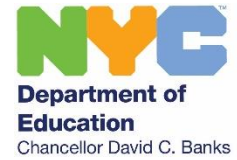




NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Stuyvesant High School
345 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10282-1099
Telephone: (212) 312-4800 Facsimile: (212) 587-3874



January 30, 2023

Dear Stuyvesant Community,

A new year often brings a sense of renewal with the hope for change—the opportunity to learn from the past so we can make improvements for the present and future. Unfortunately, as a nation we continue to repeat the same mistakes with little evidence that we are learning our lessons or even have the desire to make the necessary changes to help ourselves. We remain plagued by ignorance, anger, and violence whether in California with the recent mass shootings in Monterey Park and Los Angeles to Memphis, TN, where Tyre Nichols was fatally beaten by five Memphis police officers. These senseless killings caused by hate, racism, or a sheer dismissal of humanity remain embedded in the fabric of our country. Consequently, too many people do not *see*, *hear*, or *value* one another enough to recognize our basic human rights and shared humanity.

This entire month I have been on edge learning more about the shootings that occurred during a Lunar New Year celebration as well as after watching the video released on Friday evening that documented the severe beating of Tyre Nichols, a 29-year old Black man, by five Memphis police officers after a traffic stop. The brutality and aggression displayed by the officers was sickening, and listening to Nichols' pleas to the officers that he was “just trying to go home” and his calls for his mother left me so angry and deeply dismayed. Watching what happened to Tyre Nichols seemed unconscionable, but sadly, this has been and continues to be a reality for too many Black men. Nichols was not seen, heard, or valued as a human by these officers, which resulted in what transpired on the evening of January 7, 2023. It is so tragic, so incomprehensible, and yet, so common in our country.

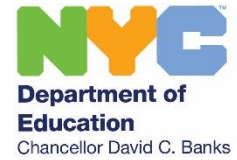
Discrimination, hatred, and violence are the manifestations of our failing to see, hear, and value one another. The recent incidents of mass shootings and frequent encounters of police brutality demonstrate we have a long way to go in recognizing our common bond as people.

I urge all of you to join me in both the urgency and optimism needed for us to collectively learn from these failings of human decency so that we can cultivate a world where people are truly seen, heard, and valued. Our young people deserve a better world than what currently exists. And if we truly desire a space where everyone matters, then it must start today, right now. We must take the time to learn about one another—to listen, to ask questions, to be curious, to acknowledge the presence and contributions of others who are likely to be more similar than different to us if we just took the opportunities to connect. Opportunities to listen to learn about our shared humanity are so vital in creating the place and space where we can all thrive.

As we enter into February and the start of Black History Month, we must each take a step to see, hear, and value the stories of others and to share our own. Through the efforts of our DEI Committee and staff in collaboration with our student clubs including the Black Student League



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(BSL), our Parents Association and Mosaic subcommittee, our alumni, and our partners, I encourage you to join the various activities that celebrate, honor, and teach us about the vast contributions of African-Americans. We have the opportunity to listen and learn from each other, but it must start today, right now.

In closing, I want to offer what Tyre Nichols shared with the world on his website for his photography.

My name is Tyre D. Nichols. I am an aspiring photographer. Well I mostly do this stuff for fun but I enjoy it very much. Photography helps me look at the world in a more creative way. It expresses me in ways I cannot write down for people. I take different types of photography, anywhere from action sports to rural photos, to bodies of water and my favorite...landscape photography. My vision is to bring my viewers deep into what I am seeing through my eye and out through my lens. People have a story to tell why not capture it instead of doing the "norm" and writing it down or speaking it. I hope to one day let people see what I see and to hopefully admire my work based on the quality and ideals of my work. So on that note enjoy my page and let me know what you think. Your friend, Tyre D. Nichols

One line in particular, "People have a story to tell..." resonated with me deeply. My hope is that not only will everyone be able to tell their story, but they will have it heard and valued by others.

In solidarity and humanity,

Seung Yu

Seung C. Yu, Ed.D
Principal