



Sturgis Charter Public School
An International Baccalaureate World School



January 7, 2021

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Dear Sturgis students, families, faculty, and staff:

I write to you with a heavy heart.

A key part of the IB's mission statement is that *“these programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right”*.

As an IB educator for nearly two decades, I have strived to uphold that mindset. Yesterday, however, shook me. Like many of you, I watched the violence in D.C. unfold in real time. I felt shocked, frightened, and saddened. As a citizen, I felt shame. With the benefit of a night's sleep, I find myself reflecting on the continued capacity of Sturgis students to engage in well-intentioned and respectful demonstration, and the stark contrast with the sedition that culminated in yesterday's invasion of the Capitol building.

As the leader in title of this special community, I cannot fully digest what we - particularly our students - have witnessed. Perhaps some of you might feel similarly. Previously, I have expressed that Sturgis is committed to improving upon our ability to engage in frank, open, and honest discussions about race, and to address and counter racism. In that spirit, as a White educator striving to learn more about race, I cannot fathom how our students of color and their families may be feeling, with their own lived experiences combining with so many subtexts and juxtapositions.



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The IB Organization “*aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect*”. In my opinion, we all need our IB community, education, and values more than ever, to help our students to create that better and more peaceful world that they deserve, and we all need.

I aim and pledge to help.

Sincerely,

Paul Marble
Executive Director