

February 10, 2021

Dear Oregon School District Families,

The Oregon School Board meeting Monday evening started with powerful words written by two OMS students who shared original poems they wrote for a creative writing contest. The poems were entitled *I Am Just Like You* and *Me, Mine and Ours*.

*These are our own Oregon students* telling us about their personal experiences and reminding us to continue the hard work of listening, learning, and creating a school community where everyone belongs. We owe it to these students - to all of our students - to provide a learning environment where diversity is honored and all students feel safe and secure.

As a school district, we have the important responsibility of supporting the learning and growth of all students in a way that aligns with our [Five Values](#). This includes a clear understanding of the importance of equity, elimination of racism and understanding that every member of our community is treated with respect and kindness.

While these are ongoing efforts, I want to make sure everyone is aware of our 2020-2021 Equity Initiatives:

- Educating staff, students and families about our [Anti-Hate Speech policy](#);
- Empowering student organizations in our equity work;
- Advancing our curriculum to promote equity, honor cultural diversity and eliminate institutional biases;
- Engaging parents, families and community members in educational forums;
- Partnering with local organizations to more fully understand and act upon institutional and other forms of racism in our district;
- Recruiting and retaining caring and professional Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) educators/staff;
- Investing in professional development programs and study/discussion groups for our teachers and staff that are focused on equity and racism.

Additional information about our strategic work can be found on our [website](#).

While we know there is still much work ahead, we remain committed to our equity efforts that empower all Oregon students to become compassionate, empathetic and active citizens.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Leslie Bergstrom - Superintendent