



# Emma H. Galindo Elementary

June 8, 2020

Natascha M. Barreto-Romero. M.Ed  
Danielle Sanders, NBCT

Principal  
Assistant Principal

Dear Crockett Vertical Team Community,

The Crockett Vertical Team recognizes that our community is hurting from the recent deaths of George Floyd and Mike Ramos and from the systemic racism that permeates the institutions that sustain our nation. While our community as a whole was already in crisis dealing with the effects of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have now been greatly impacted by the most recent events across our city, state and nation.

We have always stood together and supported one another and that solidarity is very much needed right now. The last week has been absolutely heartbreaking for us, as parents, spouses, educators, and humans. The recent events have highlighted even more, the need for us to be an inclusive and caring community where all people are heard, celebrated, honored, and respected.

We hold our students, our school family, and our larger community in our hearts. As a vertical team, from PK-3 through twelfth grade, we pledge to continue our work to grow our own cultural proficiency and to become more than just welcoming spaces, but anti-racist ones as well. As a vertical team, we collaborated together to identify action steps for our campuses that move this work and will include detailed goals and progress measures in our Campus Improvement Plans.

As a vertical team, our action steps are the following:

- We are committed to vertically aligning our professional learning on equity, cultural proficiency and inclusiveness for staff in every Crockett Vertical Team school.
- We are committed to having courageous conversations with our school community.
- We are committed to have ongoing dialogue with all students about race.
- We are committed to providing instructional materials that represent diverse perspectives, cultures, and histories in all content areas throughout the entire school year and not just during designated months.

As much as we, the adults, sometimes struggle to make sense of what is happening, we know our students may not understand their world right now and we wanted to provide you with some resources you can use to talk with your child about the horrific news we've seen:

[How to talk to kids about racism, racial violence and police brutality](#)

[How to talk to kids about racism, protest and injustice](#)

[Talking to Kids About Race](#)

[How White Parents Can Talk About Race](#)

[Anti-Racism Resources](#)

Additionally, UT is holding a free six week online class on how to talk about race. The course description states, " This course is offered to families and educators to raise awareness about race,



racism, representation, and resistance. In this course, we reflect on how we learned about race and racism as children and consider how this plays a role in how we talk about race with our youth." Space is limited and you can register here: [UT Zoom Class - How to Talk About Race](#)

If you would like to support local organizations working against racism and supporting the Black Lives Matter community, you can learn about five in Austin here: [Donate to these Five Austin Organizations Promoting Racial Equity](#)

The Crockett Vertical Team is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. We believe equity is accomplished when access is based on need, and every student is provided with what they individually require to learn and succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. We stand firm on ensuring equitable and inclusive practices continue every day. We are committed to holding each other responsible for nurturing the school environments that welcome multiple perspectives. We are committed to embed these practices into each Crockett Vertical Team school, every single day. We know this is ongoing work and over the summer each campus principal will work with their staff and student leaders to develop action plans for full implementation of each action step for each campus. All families deserve to raise their children in a community and world that is free of racism, discrimination and violence. We will be an even stronger community by working together, with purpose, empathy, and respect united in our vision for our students.

We Stand Together,  
Crockett Vertical Team Principals

ChaoLin Chang, Joslin ES  
Natascha Barreto-Romero, Emma H. Galindo ES  
Kristi Cisneros, Pleasant Hill ES  
Marizza Marquez, Sunset Valley ES  
Ben McCormack, St. Elmo ES  
Heather Petruzzini, Cunningham ES  
Kori Crawford, Crockett ECHS  
Sondra McWilliams, Lalla Odom ES  
Natalie Cardona-Villanueva, Williams ES  
Alan Stevens, Boone ES  
Michael Herbin, Bedichek MS