

Presidential inauguration, resources for discussing current events with children

Dear West Families,

Over the next few days, we know the presidential inauguration is on many of our minds. On Wednesday, January 20th, we will witness a history-making moment as the nation's first female, Black and Asian-American Vice President takes the oath of office, along with the President Elect, Joe Biden. As we observe and recognize this pivotal event, we hope our nation will experience a peaceful transfer of power. However, we also know this inauguration, like the last, brings with it heightened levels of fear and anxiety for many.

At West, we want to do everything we can to ensure Wednesday's inauguration, as well as the celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 18th, are both positive events for our students. We hope this living civics lesson is not overshadowed by fear and uncertainty over racial hostility and threats of violence similar to what we witnessed in Washington, D.C. last week and what has been in the [news](#).

Please know, MMSD is in close contact with local law enforcement and is taking precautionary steps to ensure our schools remain safe. There is no indication our school, or any MMSD schools, would be targeted by any protest event; however, the district is remaining on alert and staying in touch with law enforcement as a precaution.

We are here to support you and your children in the coming days. If you are in need of any resources or support, please reach out to me. I also want to share [several resources](#) for families for discussing protests, violence, justice and racism with children. You may also be interested in these [classroom discussion resources](#) many teachers have utilized when teaching about elections and the January 6 insurrection at the United States Capitol.

I am proud to be part of a school community that values and celebrates the diversity of races, faiths, national origins, immigration status, political viewpoints, abilities, sexual orientation and gender identities which make our school district, city and nation strong. Please stay safe.

Sincerely, Karen