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Dear Bigelow students,

On November 19th, the world learned that Kyle Rittenhouse, on trial for killing two people during a Black Lives Matters protest in Wisconsin last year, was found not guilty. Then we learned on Thanksgiving Eve that three men (Travis McMichael, Gregory McMichael, and William Bryan) were found guilty of murdering Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old unarmed Black man in Georgia last year. These are both sensitive topics with many layers of political, racial, and social concerns.

Regardless of those concerns, the Kyle Rittenhouse conclusion will likely be seen as yet another unfair reality for many Bigelow families, staff, and students—particularly our community members of color, while the Ahmaud Arbery conclusion may be seen as a glimpse of hope and justice. Bigelow has a responsibility to address the impact of both situations, and to make sure that you as students are educated on real-world topics to prepare you for life after Bigelow.

Some of you may know about these cases, their verdicts, and how they affect our society—while others may not be aware of them at all. As a learning community and place where you all should feel safe and heard, Bigelow is prepared to answer questions and has created safe spaces for those who need to process and express their feelings.

During Advisory on Thursday, December 2nd, I will be sharing a video message in regards to these situations and their potential impact on our community. After watching the video, you will have two options for the remainder of Advisory:

1. To remain in Advisory & continue with the regularly-scheduled Advisory lesson for the day, not related to either of the cases
2. To join one of the following groups with various focuses surrounding these situations:
 - a. **“Reactions to Verdicts: Hearing and learning from peers”**: *Come here if you know a good amount of what happened and you are ready to talk about how this affects you/our community.* (library)
 - b. **“Rumor Control Room: Facts presented in cases, today's laws, and final verdicts”**: *Come here if you want to learn more.* (gym)
 - c. **“Questions & Discussion for Students of Color”**: *Come together with other Bigelow students of color to process and get answers to any questions you have regarding these two cases.* (auditorium)

Bigelow Leadership, the Counseling Department, and many of your teachers are here to answer any questions you may have. We understand that real-world situations like these are learning opportunities for you, and we want to make sure to support you as much as possible. These are the moments when our shared learning, conversations and advocacy will make a difference in our community. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Chassity Coston, *Principal*