

A Message from President Keith Evans (May 31, 2020)

MAY 31 2020 6:00 PM

Dear Westminster Community,

This spring, we have all been tested by the disruption and devastation brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the school year came to a close, our nation mourned nearly 100,000 deaths and witnessed a host of powerful economic shocks, both of which our community experienced personally. But we adapted, stuck together even while apart, and completed the year unified.

Against the backdrop of this struggle and our daily choice to remain optimistic, we have now witnessed yet another senseless killing of an African American man. The protests that have followed against racial injustices in our country and here in Atlanta have been both courageous and distressing. At Westminster, we all share in the shock and grief of these circumstances.

We also recognize that our Black families, faculty, staff, and alumni have a uniquely personal experience of these events. This experience is rooted both in history and more current experiences of racism and prejudice. Responding with compassion to the experience of our African American community is rooted in our common humanity and is an expression of our shared destiny.

We see your pain and stand in solidarity with you. It is in this spirit that I extend Westminster's pledge that we will move forward together.

I know that progress seems elusive at times and that we must continue our ongoing work to ensure that all of our students, families, faculty, staff, and alumni feel fully included in our community. I approach this work with humility knowing the events of the past week have further emphasized the importance of our efforts. We will not give up.

Westminster was founded to develop leaders for our city; a core element of our mission that we have enthusiastically embraced over our history. This commitment will be more important than ever in the days ahead as our city works to restore a sense of unity of purpose. Atlanta needs us.

Aspiring to lead in this moment includes lifting up what binds us together, working toward more just and fair communities, and engaging the difficult work of reconciliation. This crisis calls Westminster to embody this aspiration while finding—and offering—inspiration in each step of the journey.

Prayerfully,

Keith Evans
President

NOTE: This email was sent Sunday, May 31, to all Westminster alumni, parents, past parents, and grandparents with valid email addresses on record. If you are a member of our community who did not receive this communication and you wish to receive future email communications, please email advservices@westminster.net.