



June 4, 2020

To our Aim High community,

Like so many Americans, my heart is filled with grief and anger about the murder of George Floyd and the senseless deaths of so many other Black Americans. This killing, along with the nationwide protests of police violence and systemic racism, make it painfully clear that we have a long way to go on the road to equality.

Aim High stands in solidarity with and in service to our Black students, graduates and teachers in communities across California and beyond. We stand against the systemic racism and oppression that shows up daily in our schools, neighborhoods, governments and institutions. Aim High seeks to be a small part of the solution by providing safe and inclusive learning environments for middle school students. In our classrooms, all voices are heard and all people are valued.

As an educational organization, we are committed to hearing, seeing and honoring our Black students, their history and their lived experiences. **We are also committed to listening and learning from communities of color, and historians and writers who amplify their stories.** This summer, [we invite you to read along](#) with our students and teachers. Especially during this time of shelter in place, books are our most powerful tool in seeing a world outside of our own.

When Aim High at Home begins on June 22, all of our teachers will be ready to offer students a safe space to process their pain, anger, grief, fear and frustration. As a white man, my only job during these conversations is to listen and learn from our communities of color.

White supremacy kills just as surely as COVID-19. We must address the damage it causes and work together to fix it. As a country and a community, we must do better for our kids.

We at Aim High will start by listening to our students, and giving them the skills and confidence to demand a more just and equitable future.

Let us all join them in the fight.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alec Lee".

Alec Lee
Aim High co-founder and executive director