Dear Dunlap Families,

As a society, it has become so easy to dilute the purity and the integrity of words with an acronym. If we are not careful, the power behind our message and the meaning in the message becomes lost. Take the acronym, ASAP – we see this in a message or an email and no one moves any faster – but let the messenger speak the words, “as soon as possible” and it tends to carry more weight and will prompt a more intentional response.

Next week, schools across Seattle are once again leading the effort in bridging the achievement gap in the nation between black and white students by standing in solidarity and participating in the national Black Lives Matter week of action. Black Lives Matter is more than BLM. Black Lives Matter is a movement that promotes the belief that we all have a responsibility to work for equity.

Yes, all lives matter, but we are leading this movement to give our black students who are furthest away from educational justice closer to hope for their future to ensure Black Lives Do Not Matter Less.

“Why do more staff wear Black Lives Matter T-shirts for only one week?”

The phrase on a T-shirt: Black Lives Matter, an uncomfortable statement for some, brings the urgency front and center—where it cannot be ignored or hidden, making us less inclined to find other explanations and rationalizations to mask what is the truth.

When a stance is taken, there is a tendency for people to jump on the bandwagon with excitement, anticipation and righteous indignation to see a wrong turned right. That is not a bad thing, but what sometimes occurs when the hoopla has died and some in the wagon are not willing to pull or push to keep the momentum going, those left standing are not as visible. The demonstrations are more infrequent, the rhetoric is not as vocal and the publicity is all but gone. We all know the true testament of standing up for injustice is not necessarily found in a T-shirt that is worn in public, but how we are living privately, every day. Wearing the T-shirts is meant to keep us focused on meaningful conversations about race – not only in our community, but in our schools. If a T-shirt helps us get there...

At Dunlap, we strive to raise the bar for each student no matter who they are, what they have or where they come from. In order for social justice to be fully imagined and implemented, we know it must be practiced consistently - with intent, with purpose and through our actions. As a nation, we aren’t there yet.

The achievement gap is the easiest thing in the world to maintain.
Closing the gap would be nothing short of an act of justice.

“Respect, Accept & Co-exist Ethnically”  Kamil Ali

Principal Talbert
Hello Amazing Dunlap Families!

I want to introduce you to Miah Diirell. She will be doing her counseling internship at Dunlap. We are happy to have her part of the Dunlap Family.

My name is Miah Diirell, I’m 25 years old and currently doing my fieldwork under the supervision of the wonderful Ms. Hutchinson in order to complete my MS in School Counseling from Capella University.

I grew up north of here, mainly in the Edmonds-Everett area and I graduated from Henry M. Jackson High School in Mill Creek in June 2013. I attended Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, where I obtained my BS in Psychology with a minor in Public Health in 2016. During that time, I was a two-sport athlete (indoor and beach volleyball) and developed a passion for working with children through coaching camps and volunteering at an elementary school in New Orleans. I now live in Fife with my fiancé, William, and our daughter, Ina, who will be 4 soon.

In 2017, I got my first job as a part-time residential counselor for a non-profit residential treatment facility, where I worked with underserved youth and adult clients with clinical mental health issues. It was during this time that I noticed my gravitation to the youth clients, I also reflected on how much I loved working with youth in New Orleans and some other personal factors that motivated me to become a school counselor. I happened to find full-time employment with the King County Sheriff’s Office two years ago and have been simultaneously pursuing my MS in School Counseling.

As a child, I did not have very engaging or present school counselors, my aim is to be the school counselor I wish I’d had when I was in school. I aspire to become a school counselor so that I can bring compassion, positive energy, and service to the students and families in my community. I believe our youth are important, they matter, and they deserve every bit of support they can get from their school.

I am so excited for the opportunity to complete my fieldwork at Dunlap, I’m especially grateful for how kind and welcoming Dunlap staff and students have been to me. I couldn’t have asked for a better school to learn from!