



Dear De Marillac Community,

During the most difficult times, the power of humanity gets us through. I write to you with a heavy heart in reflection of the unjust murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and countless others of our Black brothers and sisters. Now more than ever, we must look at the mission of De Marillac Academy as an instrument for societal change through the youth of the Tenderloin, SoMa and beyond. We are called to act with justice and stand with the Black and marginalized communities by speaking up and being advocates against racism.

As a member of the Tenderloin community, De Marillac Academy empowers the lives of young people through education. Our hope is that ultimately these young people will change our community and society for the better through service-oriented leadership in communities near and far. Motivated by our mission, we advocate for social justice. We challenge unjust and racist policies in our neighborhood, in our city, and in our country. We call for the end of violence against the Black and Brown communities.

As an organization motivated by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we celebrate love over hate. Unity will move us forward. We can look to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's articulation of the Beloved Community as our guiding force toward justice, and we must accept non-violent conflict as part of our human experience and a means to reconciliation. "It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men."

The De Marillac community will continue to use our education in the fight against racism. And, our staff are always here to support students, graduates, and families who want to talk through their experiences. Let us move forward with love in our hearts, and an understanding that the difficult conversations we need to have going forward will bring forth a reconciliation that will transform injustice and pain into love, equity and unity.

With love,

Theresa F. Houghton
President