

The Issaquah Education Association (IEA) emphatically condemns the domestic terrorism that occurred in our capitol on January 6, 2021.

As educators, we understand that events that take place outside of our classrooms and school buildings have a dramatic impact on our staff, students, and community. Our children are often more aware of events taking place than we realize. It is our responsibility as educators to not only acknowledge events that impact our students and their ability to learn, but also to offer unconditional support and solace.

We understand that it is imperative that our students and community know that we recognize what they are feeling. We are committed to providing a space where students feel supported in their need to process the events that occurred and engage their social and emotional needs.

One of the primary charges of public education is to teach future generations about the lessons we have learned from past and current events. In order to attain meaningful change within our country, we must equip all of our students to participate in a fair and democratic process. The violence and terror on January 6 were intentionally directed at a fundamental democratic process and therefore at democracy in action, which is the most important tool at our disposal to move forward change in our society.

Furthermore, we understand that the attack on our democracy and actions of those who took part on January 6 fully displayed egregious and intolerable white supremacy and white privilege. We must be candid with our students regarding the racism and bigotry witnessed in these events, as well as provide our students with the opportunity to express and discuss the inequalities that they have experienced or witnessed. We also must acknowledge the trauma experienced by students and staff and be willing to adjust in response.

We stand in solidarity with the BIPOC community as we fight together against racism to provide equitable treatment for all people of color. We adamantly condemn racism and inequality and it is our responsibility to no longer remain silent.

The IEA is committed to not shy away from the difficult conversations that challenge us to be better. We pledge to tirelessly work to make the Issaquah School District a place where all feel welcomed. We must stand strong together. We must advocate for our colleagues, students, and community. We must always strive to be better.

Our students are watching.