



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

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A message from Superintendent Pat Trice in collaboration with the VSDB Board of Visitors:

To the families and employees of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind and to the communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia,

Helen Keller, a notable author, political activist, and lecturer who was deaf and blind, once stated....

“Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other’s welfare, social justice can never be attained.”

In the wake of the recent events surrounding the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, who lost their lives to social injustice, there are great concerns that cause us to reflect on our own beliefs and responsibility for creating a world for our children that is safe and prejudice free. For African Americans, those recent deaths serve as a painful reminder of the ongoing injustice that has prevailed for many years and provoke a call to action to implement systemic change. The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) supports that change and values all individuals for who they are without prejudice of race, background, ethnicity, or disability. We believe in equal rights and respect for all and the opportunity to feel safe, to learn, and to prosper. At VSDB, we see individuals with our hearts and strive to support each in reaching their fullest potential. We acknowledge the responsibility of each individual to demonstrate care and respect in the best interest of others and to denounce all actions that support any form of discrimination against another human being. VSDB is committed to a world where social justice prevails and where all people, especially the children, can feel safe, respected, and equal. It is by example that all of us at VSDB demonstrate this commitment daily and model for our students the values that will carry them beyond graduation and into the communities in which they live.

It is with great hope, that those values will foster a stronger and more caring community, and Commonwealth of Virginia. For in the end,

“Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other’s welfare, social justice can never be attained.”

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, veteran status, or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities in its programs and activities.