#### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

# High School Psychoeducational Lesson

# MCPS Return to School



#### Introduction

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- What can I do to help?



# Zoom Classroom Expectations





Take Care of Others - While someone is speaking, please mute yourself so that we can hear what is being shared.



Take Care of Yourself –
Find a space that helps you learn at your best and focus.



Take Care of Yourself - Raise your hand through the chat if you would like to share an idea.



Take Care of Others –
Practice active listening by
following directions and listening
to others as they are speaking.

### **Objectives**



- Recognize 2-3 common crisis reactions.
- Identify resources for support.
- Perform a deep breathing exercise for relaxation purposes.
- Identify and use 2-3 adaptive coping strategies.



#### Some COVID-19 Facts

- COVID-19, aka "Coronavirus disease 2019" is a new virus that scientists and doctors are still learning about
- This disease has impacted the globe, showing cases in almost every country and region on Earth.
- COVID-19 is spread mainly from person-to-person, when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or even talks within 6 feet (or about two arms length) of another person and those droplets are inhaled into the nose or mouth of that individual.



### COVID-19 Facts Continued...

- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Symptoms vary from mild (or no symptoms) to severe. Know the symptoms.
- There are ways to protect yourself from getting COVID-19.
- Covid-19 does not recognize race, nationality or ethnicity.



### STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19



### TEACHER NOTES



The discussion about race is uncomfortable for some people, however, it is an important discussion to have among ourselves and with our students. If you are uncomfortable with having this discussion with your students, please co-teach with your school counselor, psychologist, or social worker.

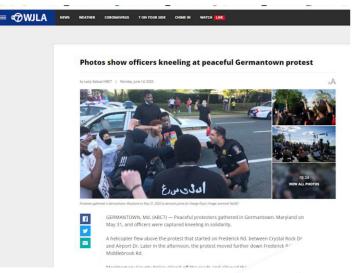
Provided below are some resources for staff to support their journeys to make it easier for them to have discussions with their students:

Educator and Caregiver Learning Guide from Disrupt Texts

#### Racial Detour

<u>Staff Work Playlist</u> - Here is a self-work playlist that is available to support facilitators of these lessons engage in their own learning before engaging in these discussions as well.

## **Dual Pandemics**





Obtained via MD PIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

#### UPDATED: Protesters gather in Germantown to speak out about death of man in Minneapolis

Police didn't see any local protests on Saturday, when they were tense in many U.S. cities

BY DAN SCHERE AND CAITLYNN PEETZ| Published: 2020-05-31 15:21

As protests continued for the sixth day across the country, about 200 protesters gathered in Germantown, marching for hours and demanding justice after a white officer was



Health

365 SEALTHY BE KIND BE VOV

County COVID-19 case increases remain under 1% for 16 consecutive

Cays
State continues to have higher increases
BY BRIANA ADHIKUSUMA FOLLOW @BRIADHIKUSUMA| Published: 2020-07-23 10:53
For the 16th straight day, the increase in newly reported COVID-

What it's like to be Asian during the coronavirus pandemic



Maryland's Largest School District

# Some Facts About Racism and Social Justice

Social justice refers to the practices and structures that contribute to improved access of marginalized populations to various school programs and activities. (Brown, 2004; Marshall, 2004; Theoharis, 2008).

There are protests happening all over our country and the world because people are acting on their beliefs that all people should be treated fairly and are protesting to change things that make life harder for some people.









**Internalized Racism:** 







Interpersonal Racism:



**Institutional Racism:** 



Structural Racism:

## A Brief Anti-Racism Glossary

**Equity** is the commitment to ensure that every student and staff member, without regard to their actual or perceived personal characteristics, is given the individual challenges, support, and opportunities to exceed a rigorous common standard in order to be prepared for academic and career success.

<u>Implicit Bias</u> refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions. These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, may be activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control.

<u>Cultural Proficiency</u> is the ongoing process of becoming knowledgeable of one's culture, as well as the cultures of others in order to foster an appreciation, understanding, and respect for varying cultural expressions that exist in the actions and interactions of an organization; and, to strengthen and enrich the organization and the community at large with the presence and contributions of many cultures.

## Brief Anti-Racism Glossary Continued

<u>Cultural Responsiveness</u> is the ability to learn from and relate with people of one's own culture as well as those from other cultures. Culturally responsive educational systems are grounded in the belief that culturally and linguistically diverse students can excel in academic endeavors if given adequate support and resources.

<u>Cultural Competences</u> is the knowledge, behaviors, and dispositions necessary to effectively interact with other cultural groups (Hansuvadha, Slater 2012).

<u>Systems of Oppression</u> identifies inequity by calling attention to the historical and organized patterns of mistreatment. In the United States systems of oppression (like systemic racism) are woven into the very foundation of American culture, society, and laws. (Social Identities and Systems of Oppression, 2019)

### Social Justice in the Time of COVID-19



- Impacts of COVID-19 on the African American and Latinx Communities
- Black Lives Matter Movement Acknowledgement of Social Injustices
- Protests of Anti-Racism
- Discussions about Race and Privileges
- Dual Pandemics: COVID and Closure, Race and Equity



#### Obtained via MD PIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

# Let's Dispel Rumors



































#### COMMON INITIAL CRISIS REACTIONS

#### **EMOTIONAL**

Depression or sadness

Anger Grief

Shock

Despair Irritability

Phobias Hypersensitivity

Terror or fear Helplessness

Guilt Hopelessness

Loss of pleasure from Emotional numbing

activities

#### COGNITIVE

Impaired concentration Decreased self-esteem

Memory impairment Self-blame

Disbelief Worries

Confusion Nightmares

Distortion Decreased self-efficacy

Intrusive thoughts or memories

Impaired decision-making abilities



#### PHYSICAL

Fatigue Startle response

Insomnia Headaches

Sleep disturbance Decreased libido

Decreased appetite Hyperarousal

Somatic Complaints Gastrointestinal problems

Impaired immune response

#### INTERPERSONAL/BEHAVIORAL

Alienation Aggression

School refusal Crying easily

School impairment **Tantrums** 

Vocational impairment Change in eating patterns

Regression in behavior Risk Taking

Increased relationship conflict Avoidance of reminders

Social withdrawal or social isolation

Stress is the uncomfortable feeling you get when you're worried, scared, angry, frustrated, or overwhelmed. Stress is how the body responds to any demand.

→ It is caused by emotions, but it also affects your mood and body.

**STRESS AFFECTS EVERYONE** 

# How to Manage Your Stress

-Many things can cause stress. At the moment, we are in the middle of a pandemic as well as recognizing the impact of social injustices. Other situations also lead to stress.



- -Major Life Changes
- -Life Circumstances
- -Recognize the signs of your body's response to stress, such as difficulty sleeping, being easily angered, feeling depressed, and having low energy.

Stress can be managed utilizing a variety of strategies.



Try a Relaxing Activity

Set goals and priorities

Don't focus on the problem

Always remember, just keep moving forward.

### How to Manage Your Stress

- **Daily Uplifts**: Positive experiences that make you happy
- **Healthy Coping Strategies**: Positive actions that help to reduce or manage stress and other uncomfortable emotions.
- Create a sense of belonging: Feeling connected and welcomed is essential to an individual's positive adjustment, self-identification, and sense of trust in others and themselves.
- The next time you're stressed: take a step back, inhale and laugh. Be strong, be flexible, love yourself, and love others.



#### Relaxation Activities

**Deep Breathing**: A deep breathing exercise allows you to take slower, deeper belly breaths and reach a truly relaxed state.



- → Progressive Muscle Relaxation: tensing and relaxing muscles throughout the body.
- → Visualization Imagery: sights, sounds, and touch sensations associated with a particularly calm scene induce a state of pleasure.



→ **Meditation**: a mental exercise to train the mind and promotes relaxation.

# Great Stress Management Resources



Here are some great At Home workouts to get you up and moving!

Kid & Teen at Home Workout

15 Min Kickboxing Lesson

30 Min Latin Dance Workout

30 Min Yoga



**Check out these Mindfulness and Guided Meditation videos.** 

**Guided Meditation** 

**Seated Body Scan** 

Yoga and Mindfulness BrainPop Video

**Calming Breathing Practices** 



Here are links to some great coping strategies to try out.

A to Z Coping Strategies

**Grounding Technique** 

## When to Seek Additional Help?

While these reactions are normal, it can become a problem if the thoughts become persistent and invasive.



#### Seek additional help if:

- You begin to feel an alarming sense of sadness or anxiety is overwhelming
- You begin thinking about suicide or harming yourself
- You begin thinking about harming others.
- You feel that your reaction is so significant and need to speak with someone about it

#### Tell a Trusted Adult



- If you or a friend feel this way, tell a trusted adult:
  - At School:
    - o Teacher, Administrator, Counselor, Psychologist, etc.
  - At Home:
    - o Parent, Grandparent, Sibling, Guardian, etc.
- Montgomery County Crisis Hotline Text Hello to 741741 or Call/Text 301-738-2255
- Montgomery County Crisis Center (240) 777-4000
- EveryMind (301) 424-0656

### Supports At School

Insert pictures, names and emails of the teacher presenting, Admin, School Counselors, School Psychologist, PPW, & PCC



# Check for Understanding



What coping strategies will you use when you are feeling overwhelmed?

Remember your trusted adults at school:

**School Counselors:** 

School Psychologist:

PPW:

Administrators:

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you'll ever know."

- A.A. Milne



#### Resources

SE HEALTHY . BE KIND . BE VOU

- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Montgomery County (MD) Department of Health and Human Services



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