



# UNIVERSAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

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## Universal Family of Schools Statement on Wednesday's Insurrection

On Wednesday, a mob stormed the U.S. Capitol as Congress convened to certify the presidential election. Primed with fury that arose from President Trump's speech at an earlier rally, the mob showed open disregard for America's constitution in a violent attempt to overturn the election.

The mob's fanatical devotion to the defeated president is troubling. And even more disturbing is the President's refusal to accept the election's outcome. America's founders knew our nation is not exempt from those who would try to cling to power at any cost. Hence, they created a process to ensure peaceful transitions of power take place. On Wednesday, we witnessed that those who would defy that principle will be crushed by it.

I want to encourage our families to talk with their children about what happened. I hope that our scholars will not be discouraged by the horrors the violent mob inflicted on the U.S. Capitol, but instead become resolved to stand against injustice. It is crucial that we do not "protect" our scholars from the ugly truth about what generated yesterday's failed coup. We should instead instruct them wisely and prepare them to uphold human dignity and condemn hatred of any kind at any level.

Universal's leadership is determined to continue our fight for educational equity and justice. But we cannot fight this battle alone. Home and school must unite to teach fairness, decency, and respect and to show our children how to put those values into practice.

I am not dismayed by yesterday's events, although I am disappointed. The year 2020 launched an era of racial reckoning. It's darkest before the dawn, and sometimes things get worse before they get better. Let's unite in our common pursuit of eradicating open hatred and to plant seeds of hope and goodness so that our children will be able to live in a better, more compassionate world.

The choice is ours.

Yours truly,

Dr. Penny Nixon  
Superintendent/CEO