An Open Letter to the [school] community:

We are a group of dedicated and concerned [school] parents who deeply care for our school and our community. We believe that the school leadership has adopted a divisive ideology that is harming rather than helping our children.

We appreciate that [school] seeks to improve our community as our country reckons with the legacy of racism. We are strongly committed to opposing racism and any policy that treats groups differently based on skin color, ancestry or other immutable traits. We share the school’s commitment to fighting racism and intolerance in all of its forms. As [school] community members and citizens, we also have a responsibility to uphold the ideals of fairness and equality that have made this country a beacon to millions of people everywhere.

As parents, we were disturbed to learn that faculty, administrators, and the Board of Trustees all have been attending training sessions that promote and emphasize a regressive and divisive ideology. This ideology assumes that America was founded on white supremacy and asserts that racism is at the heart of every disparity in society and our schools. This ideology requires people to see themselves, not as individuals, but as representatives of a group of oppressors or oppressed, depending on the color of their skin. The school has required this training, and as a result, this divisive and regressive ideology now pervades our classrooms.

At [school], teachers are using this ideological framework at every level of our school. They are teaching lessons that make our children define their identity based on the color of their skin. They are presenting a skewed version of history, which omits historical facts in support of a particular agenda. As parents, we encourage the school to teach the complicated truth about America, including its flaws and failures, but we also encourage the school to include the reality of America’s success and progress on issues of race and equality. By omitting the progress of racial equality, teachers are leading children toward ignorance and activism in the place of critical thinking and authentic learning.

All of our children are unique individuals who have built healthy relationships within our [school] community. These relationships are based on trust, respect, laughter, kindness, listening, sharing, arguing, and making up. Our children aren’t born caring about the color of each other’s skin; they don’t care about the struggles of communicating with students for whom English is not their first language; they don’t care about each other’s different backgrounds. Sadly, the school’s ideology is teaching our students to focus less on what they instinctively value in a relationship and more on ideological grievances. We should take a lesson from our children in how human beings can transcend differences through shared experiences, values, and mutual understanding.

We have conveyed our concerns to administrators, and we are grateful that some have been open to listening to our concerns**.** But we are disappointed that the school continues to follow a trajectory toward illiberalism that is harming our children and our community.

As [school] parents, we urge the school to reject illiberal and divisive ideologies. We urge the school instead to focus our community on the content of our character and not the color of our skin. We urge the school to support pro-human, shared liberal values such as fairness, understanding, humanity, and the freedom to disagree without fear of censure or shame.

There are many resources that can help build bridges and create a positive school culture, including the programs created by the [Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR),](https://www.fairforall.org/) such as pro-human curriculum, diversity training, high school clubs and more.

We write this letter in the hopes of empowering parents, faculty, and administrators to find better, more constructive ways to approach our differences as we move forward as a unified community.