

Dear Fellow Explorer Parents,

These past 18+ months have been a whirlwind; the pandemic has made the importance of a strong school community support system more apparent than ever. Fostering a school community where all of our children feel safe and respected is as important as academic achievement. Discovery is already such a wonderful, warm, and caring home for our children, and in furthering that care and respect, Discovery Elementary will again be participating in **No Place for Hate®**, a national program supporting schools in their commitment to celebrating diversity, promoting respect for differences and challenging bias and bullying at all levels.

Developed by the Anti-Defamation League, the No Place for Hate® framework provides PreK-12 schools with a student, staff, and community platform to promote a culture that fosters respect, equity, and inclusion for all and will work alongside the school's already vibrant and robust social-emotional practices. I'm writing to let you know that in the coming months, your child may start to bring home their own knowledge about the No Place for Hate® program activities as teachers work to incorporate grade-specific lesson plans into their curriculum. Each classroom will also hold its own "signing ceremony" for the No Place for Hate Pledge (to be displayed on a poster in each classroom), which reads:

- I promise to do my best to treat everyone fairly.
- I promise to do my best to be kind to everyone—even if they are not like me.
- If I see someone being hurt or bullied, I will tell a teacher.
- I will help others to feel safe and happy at school.
- I will be part of making my school No Place for Hate.

In addition, you can practice No Place for Hate® at home! For family-based resources on challenging bullying and bias, visit <https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families>.

To learn more or to get involved with No Place for Hate® at Discovery Elementary, or for questions about the program, please contact Laura Sawyer, NPFH Lead Parent Partner at laurasawyerdhokai@gmail.com or Dr. Keith Reeves, NPFH Lead Teacher, at keith.reeves@apsva.us.

You may also learn more from visiting this website <https://www.noplaceforhate.org/>. With your help, we will continue our commitment to make our school community a safe and welcoming space for all.

Warmly,

Laura Sawyer (mom of 2nd grade Explorer Gus Dhokai)