



River Forest
Public Schools

Dear District 90 Families, Faculty, and Staff,

Three years ago, a film crew led by director Steven James followed 12 Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRFHS) students and several faculty members for an entire school year. The filmmakers' goal was to examine how a diverse and progressive community continues to struggle in providing the equitable educational experiences that benefit all students. The resulting 10-part documentary, *America to Me*, will debut on the STARZ Cable network on Sundays from August 26 to October 28 at 8 p.m. central time.

While the documentary mainly focuses on the OPRFHS school community, it also provides the River Forest District 90 community with the opportunity to continue our own conversations surrounding educational equity and race within our schools. These discussions can help normalize conversations about race, broaden the number of individuals involved in equity initiatives, and at the same time, advance the recognition that all students thrive in an equitable academic environment.

Providing such experiences is essential for our efforts because District 90 believes that providing equitable learning experiences represent the surest path to academic excellence for all students. For more than three years, District 90's Board members, administrators, staff, and key community members have deliberately worked to make greater equity a reality for students. We have made progress in some areas. Other areas still require additional time and effort to make notable headway. Yet we recognize that this journey's success depends on perseverance. District 90 will be dedicated to this pursuit for the foreseeable future.

The airing of *America to Me* will bring additional attention to the challenges and promises of delivering educational equity to all students. OPRFHS will be holding watch parties with facilitated discussions after each episode starting on August 26. Please visit the OPRFHS website at www.oprfhs.org for more information. Other organizations and individuals will also be holding similar gatherings. Whether at home or in a public setting, I encourage families to consider viewing the series together. *America To Me* provides an opportunity for families to clarify their views and values regarding the issue of equity in our community. Families will want to decide whether the series is appropriate for younger children, of course.

In the coming months, District 90 will continue to share the progress of our equity-related initiatives and efforts and reach out regarding the ways that you can participate in furthering these efforts. In the interim, please know that your ongoing support of our students, staff members, and schools is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our District 90 school community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Condon".

Ed Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent