



**THE NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOOL**  
**430 SILLS ROAD**  
**YAPHANK, NY 11980**  
[www.niskids.org](http://www.niskids.org)  
**631-924-5583**

### **Tribute to Black History Month**

Black history and the history of our nation share common, parallel paths. The contributions of people of color proved crucial to the establishment of the United States as a nation, instrumental in the preservation of our union, and essential at every stage of our country's pursuit of "a more perfect union". Devastatingly, the recognition, appreciation, and deserved merits for the innumerable contributions by the Black community to our nation suffered the same prejudice, discrimination, and indignities bestowed upon the people themselves. Black History Month shouldn't have to be carved out as a separate month for special recognition. However, the reality of our nation's history dictates that it must.

In 1954, Martin Luther King declared that "true peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." He included variations on this theme during a speech in 1957 in Montgomery, Alabama, as he led our nation through a necessary and tumultuous reckoning period for greater racial and social justice. Today, 60 years later, these words could not resonate more loudly. Our nation arrives at another point of reckoning, one that hopefully heralds more profound and lasting justice.

NIS recognizes the contributions – past, present, and future – of Black Americans and communities of color. We commit to working together with all constituents to help pave a more fair and just society. Change does not come easily, and it does not come without tension. We must recognize the biases in our society, institutions, workplaces, and ourselves – implicit and overt. We must engage with one another, and listen to perspectives that differ from our own. And finally, we must challenge the status quo, when it does not advance the cause of racial and social justice.

We acknowledge the contributions of employees of color to the success of our agency, and strive to honor our diversity, advance a culture of true inclusion and respect, and ensure meaningful progress toward equity throughout our organization.

We honor and look forward to making our agency, society and nation a just, humane, and "more perfect" home for all.

Jay Silverstein, Ph.D.  
Executive Director