



Dear Idyllwild Community,

By now, we have all heard of the disturbing and hateful acts of violence in Atlanta that led to the deaths of eight people, six of whom were of Asian descent. At Idyllwild Arts, we attract a diverse group of young artists from all around the world and we are heartbroken by the acts of violence directed toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The events of last week, and indeed the events of this past year, have taught many of us about the increasing violence and injustice that underrepresented and marginalized communities face.

We honor and remember the eight individuals who lost their lives in the Atlanta spa shootings:

Soon Chung Park
Hyun Jung Grant
Suncha Kim
Yong Yue
Delaina Ashley Yaun
Paul Andre Michels
Xiaojie Tan
Daoyou Feng

Idyllwild Arts students travel from near and far to be a part of our community. It is an incredible act of love and courage for a parent to support a child's dream and allow them to live away from home during the precious years of their youth. It is a privilege to work in a boarding school and to serve our students *in loco parentis*. Keeping them safe is always our highest priority.

Being invited to join a community of like-minded peers who support and encourage one another is what every Idyllwild Arts student expects and enjoys. Engaging in earnest dialogue in our international, multicultural community allows our students to gain empathy for those who come from different cultures and backgrounds. An education in the arts is inseparable from the ideals of equity, justice, and belonging. These continuing acts of senseless violence remind each of us of the mission of Idyllwild Arts and of our belief that art is the greatest teacher of humanity.

We have heard from many of you in Idyllwild who have offered words of encouragement, empathy, and support for our students of Asian descent. Our students and their parents know that they are cared for and loved in Idyllwild, and we are grateful to this community that welcomes our students each year and helps us make Idyllwild their home away from home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Pamela Jordan".

Pamela Jordan

President, Idyllwild Arts Foundation

