



**THRIVAL INDY  
ACADEMY**

To our local, national, and global community:

In the summer of 2016, after being inundated with videos of unarmed Black people losing their lives at the hands of the very people sworn to protect and serve our community, my heart cried out. I felt heavy and hopeless. I screamed, but the silence around me prevailed. It had been less than a full year since we lost Sandra Bland while in custody for a simple traffic stop, less than two years since the country witnessed 12 year-old Tamir Rice being gunned down in a state-sanctioned drive-by shooting, and three years since we learned that a jury acquitted George Zimmerman of the murder charges he faced for taking the life of Trayvon Martin, who was armed with a pack of skittles and a can of Arizona tea.


I knew that something more needed to be done on the part of educators and the education system. Let's be clear, the police force did not invent racism. What we were seeing was a manifestation of the white supremacy which is embedded in every system in this country, including the education system. I made it my mission to disrupt and dismantle what has for generations caused harm to people of color generally and Black people specifically. For me, Thrival Indy Academy is in itself an act of radical activism, designed to address and counteract the very systems meant to incite hate, harm, and community destruction.

And now four years later we are processing the pain of witnessing the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed, and George Floyd, among others. During a time when Black and brown communities are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 with loss of life as well as reliable income, food, and housing, our community has reached a breaking point. Once again, my heart is heavy. I grieve for and with my people. But whereas I felt hopeless four years ago, today I feel energized to activate and mobilize my community through the leadership of my school.

The Thrival Indy Academy family unequivocally stands against systemic racism and for the advocacy and activism of communities that have been oppressed for far too long. Our school's mission is to develop young leaders and advocates, and we are relentless about it. We will no longer be passive victims of supremacist systems; our young people will be disruptors. Advocate Vigorously is my favorite of Thrival Indy's values, and it is embedded into every course, every unit, every lesson. I challenge every school system to move beyond statements in support of protestors and begin the work of becoming anti-racist institutions.

Anti-racism is active and unrelenting. From the central office to each school's front office, every individual involved with the development of the hearts and minds of our youth, including our boards, must denounce racism and white supremacy. We can no longer accept anything less.

Yours in truth, justice, and advocacy,



India Hui

Founding School Leader & Executive Director