

Excerpt from a letter sent by parents from Bryn Mawr and Gilman School
(Maryland, April 22, 2021)

Dear Families,

Attached is a letter written by a group of parents from Bryn Mawr and Gilman. The Parents represent families of different races and different life experiences who all share that the administrations and Board of Trustees do not have our children's best interests at heart.

We have had enough and it is time that our voices are heard.

It cannot be stated strongly enough that Bryn Mawr and Gilman's obsession with race must stop. It should be abundantly clear to any thinking parent that these schools have completely lost their way. The administration and the Board of Trustees have displayed a cowardly and appalling lack of leadership by appeasing an anti-intellectual, illiberal mob, and then allowing the schools to be captured by that same mob. What follows are our shared views on the schools' antiracism initiatives, but these are just a handful of the criticism that we know other parents have expressed.

We object to the view that we should be judged by the color of our skin. We cannot tolerate a school that not only judges our sons and daughters by the color of their skin.

We object to the charge of systemic racism in this country, and at our school. Systemic racism is properly understood, is segregated schools, and separate lunch counters. Systemic racism is unequivocally not a small number of isolated incidences over a period of decades. We have not had systemic racism in this country since the civil rights reforms of the 1960s, a period of more than 50 years. Furthermore, we call bullshit on Bryn Mawr and Gillman's oft-stated assertion that the school welcomes and encourages the truly difficult and uncomfortable conversations regarding race and the roots of racial discrepancies.

By adopting critical race theory, the school is advocating the abhorrent viewpoint that Black should forever be regarded as helpless victims, and are incapable of success regardless of their skills, talents, or hard work.

Evaluating *The 1619 Project's* Claims

Unit by African American History at Mastery Charter Schools,
part of the 2021 cohort of *The 1619 Project* Education Network

1619 | Education Network

We object to the number of dedicated conversations surrounding racism held during academic school time that our children are subjected to. We object to Bryn Mawr and Gilman's advocacy for groups and movements such as Black Lives Matter, a Marxist, anti family, heterophobic, anti-Asian and anti-Semitic organization that neither speaks for the majority of the Black community in this country, nor in any way, shape or form, represents their best interests.

The manner in which race and race relationships are being talked about at school have made the environment WORSE not better.

We object to the classroom teaching of racial microaggressions, and the calling out of our children as racists or privileged and as White supremacists in the classroom. We would not and shout not tolerate this racial hatred toward any individual, irrespective of their race.

Lastly, we object, with as strong a sentiment as possible, that Bryn Mawr and Gilman have begun to teach what to think, instead of how to think.

Respectfully,

The Community of Bryn Mawr and Gilman Families