

**Cole Leavitt**

**Cromwell Middle School**

When I reflect on MLK's famous "I Have a Dream Speech," I initially thought how far the society of the US has come. As I sit in my 7th grade classroom, I notice how diverse the students are. No longer are there classrooms for white students and classrooms for black students. Students of all colors are welcomed into the same school and the same classrooms. There no longer slavery, but as a nation in 2008, the first black president in the USA was elected. This must be something MLK could not even have imagined back in 1963. If I have learned nothing from the year 2020, I learned that in the US there are still problems surrounding the topic of race. While we have come so far, there is still far to go. The Black Lives Matter movement and the reason the saying "black lives matter" does not mean that white lives matter less. Right now black lives are facing an injustice that many white people find hard to understand because it is not something that affects them everyday. I do not have to walk down the street with my hood on and worry about a police officer stopping me. I don't understand how that feels, but it affects me. I will never forget when I saw a police officer on TV kneel on George Floyd's neck and kill him. Until we live in a world where everyone is truly treated equally regardless of the color of their skin, those words MLK spoke at the Lincoln Memorial hold the same meaning today, as they did then. "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."