



February 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to you this morning to inform you about an online posting that was made last night and to let you know the steps our school is taking – and that we ask you to take – in response to it.

As you may know, our boys basketball team lost by a single point in a hard-fought game with Annapolis High School last night. In the wake of that loss, one of our students posted a snapshot with a hate-filled caption that was racist in nature. It is my belief at this time that the snapshot was sent as a private message to a single person, and that it was subsequently posted online. Regardless, the contents of this post were outrageous, deplorable, and entirely unacceptable. I condemn them in the strongest possible terms.

I became aware of the post late last night and contacted the parents of the student. The student is not in class this morning. We will carry out the discipline process as we do in any other case, but I want to assure you that I will take the strongest action possible in accordance with our Code of Student Conduct.

While we must never condemn students – our very obligation is to support and uplift them in every possible way – we cannot accept actions that are contrary to the beliefs of our school and school system that every single human being has value and that hate has no place here. It is our duty as a school, as a school system, and as a society to help every one of our young people practice acceptance and inclusion in all that they do.

I want to be clear that I don't believe the actions of this single student in any way represents the mindset of the majority of our student body. I spoke to our students this morning, and reiterated to them our expectation that our building will be one where acceptance and inclusion is not just the expectation, but the norm. I also plan to meet with groups of students throughout the day today to allow them to express the impact this incident has had on them and provide me with input about ways we can better address the broader issue from a schoolwide perspective.

I am asking you to talk to your child about this matter, and help them understand the ramifications that a single action can have on many people, both inside our school and outside of it. We have spent – and will continue to spend – a considerable amount of time and effort helping to create a school climate that is both welcoming and supportive. I ask you to help us to continue to maintain that climate.

Sincerely,

Jim Todd
Principal

JT/bm