

April 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am frustrated and concerned to have to write you again to inform you about an incident that consumed a considerable amount of time today and to once again ask you to talk with your child.

This morning before school started, one of our staff members saw a pickup truck traveling through our parking lot with a Confederate flag flying from the back of it. The staff member alerted our administration and one of our administrators, along with our School Resource Officers, located the truck in the parking lot. The flag was in the bed of the truck, but the officers and administrator also saw a noose and a pair of dice decorated with Confederate flags hanging from the mirror of the truck.

We located the student to whom the truck's parking permit is issued and brought that student to our office. Especially given the number of incidents at our school recently as well as those around the nation, it should go without saying that we do not treat these incidents lightly. Actions that portray bias, discrimination, or hate have absolutely no place in our community and certainly have no place in our school or any school.

Independent of how police proceed, please be assured that we have taken appropriate action in accordance with our Code of Student Conduct.

In a letter just before the Easter/Spring break, I urged you to have what I view as crucial conversations about the environment that we need to cultivate and enhance in order for every student in our school to not just be successful, but to thrive. We simply cannot meet that goal with distractions such as those that have taken place in recent weeks.

I implore you to talk to your child about the kind of school I believe we all want Chesapeake High School to be. I do not believe that we want our headlines to be about nooses, racial slurs, and intolerance. I do emphatically believe that we want Chesapeake High School to be known for its academic and community success stories.

I ask you to do everything you can to partner with us to make that happen.

Sincerely,

Stephen W. Gorski
Principal, Chesapeake High School

SWG/bm