

Parent Update PLHS 11/16/21

The purpose of today's message is to provide additional information related to the racist video that was posted by a PLHS student last week and outline some short and long-term actions underway to promote conversations about race and help ensure a safe learning environment.

The district investigation continues and we will take appropriate action according to state law and district policy. Due to data privacy laws, we cannot provide additional information about the investigation. At the same time we are working with staff and students to determine how to prevent similar conduct in the future.

It is important that we listen to students and meet them where they are in regard to their feelings, emotions and thoughts about the racist video. Some students need a return to our daily routine, while others need the opportunity to process their feelings. We have been and continue to do both for all students.

Here are some additional steps we are taking:

- Our Coalition for Teachers of Color (CTOC) held healing circles each hour yesterday for any student of color who wanted to process how they are feeling with CTOC staff.
- We reminded all students that our counselors are available for them at any time.
- Last night our district's Director of Equity and Inclusion, Sam Ouk, held a Coffee & Conversations community meeting about the equity work that has been underway in our district and to collect input on ways we can continue to improve. This was the first of a monthly series he will be conducting with our community.
- Wednesday morning our Superintendent, Dr. Teri Staloch, is convening a meeting with a district-wide team of students, staff and administrators to listen, share ideas and discuss opportunities for next steps to continue our healing process and determine how to prevent similar conduct in the future. We will share ideas that come from that meeting and will identify other ways for students, parents and the community to become involved and continue those important conversations.
- We continue to promote our [Confidential Reporting System](#) as one way students and staff can report dangerous or potentially harmful situations.

I am encouraged by these early efforts of our staff and students to listen to one another and work together to provide a school environment that is safe, respectful, and where every student feels a sense of belonging.

We also want to update you on a situation that occurred during last Thursday's protest by an outside group at PLHS. The Savage Police informed us that they did address an adult male that came onto school property with a holstered weapon claiming he had a permit to carry. The Savage Police located the male and removed the weapon. The case was referred to the county attorney's office for review of charges.

As we continue to help students process the events of last week, I want to emphasize that long-term we must all work together to help ensure ours is a school and community where racism is not tolerated and is not ignored. I will continue to provide you with updates moving forward.

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