

November 9, 2016

Dear Maple Grove Senior High School families:

I'm writing to share with you a serious and disturbing racial incident that occurred at our school today. Earlier today, we received a report of a racist message that was written in one of our school restrooms. I am horrified by this action, which goes against everything for which our school stands; it is completely contrary to our core values, both as a school and as a district.

We immediately launched an investigation into this incident, and we will take swift and appropriate action based on the investigation findings. We will work very hard to identify who did this horrible act and determine how we can support the students and staff who have been affected by it.

A safe and healthy learning environment is an essential characteristic of effective schools, and every day at Maple Grove Senior High we seek to provide a safe and respectful learning and working environment for every student and employee. Racist messages like the one found in our school endanger the safety of our students and staff of color, and create a climate that is not conducive to learning.

We are very concerned about our students, staff and families who have been affected by this incident. I want to assure every student and employee that we are committed to their safety and well-being.

This incident is additional evidence of the pressing need in our schools, our community and our nation to find ways to talk about race constructively and respectfully. Over the past several years, we have been learning and practicing language that helps us engage in these conversations when we need them most, in order to interrupt racism. I know that placing student voice at the center will be essential in our efforts to address this terrible event and to help students feel safe and secure at our school.

I want you to know that I am determined to provide a safe and respectful learning environment for all students and staff at our school. We will now work to identify additional measures we can take to support that goal.

Sincerely,



Bart Becker, Principal

Ph: (763) 391-8700
Fx: (763) 391-8701

9800 Fernbrook Ln. N.
Maple Grove, MN 55369

district279.org