



February 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Many of you are already aware of the snapshot accompanied by a racist caption created by a Broadneck High School student and put online last night following our boys basketball team's victory over Broadneck. I want to assure you that we are aware of it as well and convey to you how we are supporting our students as we move forward.

This morning during Panther Hour, I, along with school counselors and our school psychologist, met with all of our basketball players – both boys and girls, varsity and junior varsity – as well as any other students who exhibited anxiousness, anger, or apprehension as a result of this post. We talked with them about our inherent inability to control the actions of others, but our complete ability to control the way or ways in which we respond.

There is no other way to say it: Last night's post was reprehensible and entirely unacceptable. It was a hate-filled message aimed at our students and our community, and one which was difficult at best to read. I have spoken with Broadneck High School Principal Jim Todd this morning and he shares my anger over this incident. I am confident that he and his administrative team will deal with the matter swiftly and appropriately. I have pledged my support in any way possible.

As I said, we cannot control what has happened. However, we must not respond in kind. To do so would undermine everything we stand for at Annapolis High School. We are one of the most diverse high schools in Anne Arundel County and we should wear that diversity as a badge of pride and honor. Through all of our diversity, however, there is one constant: We are all A-High.

Our counselors and school psychologist will be available again tomorrow during Panther Hour to talk to students about this issue. I urge you to talk with your child this evening and help them understand appropriate responses to this issue. We must work together to ensure that despite the negative things that may happen in our lives, we owe it to ourselves and our community – in this case Annapolis High School – rise above.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gelinis  
Principal

PG/bm