



November 12, 2019

Dear Northeast High Families:

It is with incredible frustration and, quite honestly, anger that I write to you today to inform you about two repulsive social media posts created by some of our students and posted online.

At about noon today, our School Resource Officer was notified by two students of a racist video post in which three students used the word “hate” along with a racial slur. A similar post with a still photo and caption was also put online. Our SRO viewed the posts and brought them to my attention. Within 30 minutes, we had identified the three students in the video, and its creator.

The speed with which we were able to investigate and resolve this matter was only possible because two students did exactly what they should have done and reported the post to a responsible adult immediately. I commend these students and urge every student to follow their example.

I also want to be perfectly clear: This type of behavior – from anyone at any time in any place – is unacceptable. We have spent and will continue to spend hour after hour here at Northeast High School trying to create a place where everyone feels accepted. Events like Unity Day, Spirit Week, and our annual winter assembly that focuses on “kindness and perseverance” for students are designed to create a sense of oneness and a place where every student and adult feels welcome.

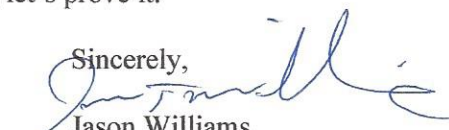
These posts fly in the face of that and, quite frankly, show us that we all – students, parents, and community leaders – have a lot of work left to do.

I assure you that we are treating this incident as one of bias-motivated behavior and will administer appropriate consequences in accordance with the [Code of Student Conduct](#) to anyone we have identified as being involved in this hateful incident.

Please know that our school counselors are always available for students, especially if your child needs to share how he or she feels about this or any other incident. Please also encourage your child to report any situation that makes him or her feel unsafe to a responsible adult immediately. Any safety concern can also be addressed through the Student Safety Hotline at 1-877-676-9854 that can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Callers to that line can remain anonymous.

The 2018 State of Maryland Hate Bias Report shows that more reports came from the 21122 ZIP Code than anywhere else in the state. We have a decision to make: Do we want to be known for that statistic or do we want to be known as a place of acceptance and inclusion?

That choice is ours – all of ours. We are the ones who can create change. My administrative team and I are having discussions about things we can do here at Northeast High School to further help effect that change. I implore you to have those discussions in the circles in which you travel as well. Please also talk with your child about what you can do to assist. We are better than this. Together, let’s prove it.

Sincerely,  
  
Jason Williams  
Principal

JW/bm