

Dear Parents and Families of [REDACTED] School,

At [REDACTED] we highly value and are committed to fostering a safe and loving learning environment for our students. Communicating home about issues that impact our school community is critical to maintaining strong partnerships with families.

Last night, during our virtual [REDACTED] celebration, an unknown party gained access to the Zoom meeting and began verbalizing hate speech. The offender also drew an antisemitic symbol on the screen that students and parents may have seen. I want to acknowledge receipt of these disturbing reports and state that the use of hate speech by anyone, regardless of their affiliation with our school community, is unacceptable and not tolerated at any DCPS school.

[REDACTED] School teachers and staff greatly value creating a safe, inclusive, and affirmative environment for all of our students and families. I want to ensure you that we are also using this as a learning opportunity for our school community to continue to improve security measures around virtual meetings. We will also offer support to any students or parents who express the need for it as a result of the incident last night. Parents can reach out to a member of our Socioemotional team for additional support.

6th grade: [REDACTED], School Psychologist, [REDACTED]

7th grade: [REDACTED], 7th grade Social Worker, [REDACTED]

8th grade: [REDACTED], 8th grade Social Worker, [REDACTED]

Per DC Public Schools' protocol for responding to incidents of hate and bias, this has been reported to DCPS' Central Equity Response Team. No matter the intent of an incident, we are always required to report it so that we can move forward to restore our community and repair harm. Please reach out should you have questions about this process. We want to be as transparent with our families as possible while honoring the confidentiality of DCPS' reporting process.

If you ever experience, witness or hear about an incident of hate or bias within our school community – virtually or in-person – report the incident to a member of our staff as soon as you are made aware.

The well-being of our students is paramount. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me via email at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Principal, [REDACTED] School