



BUNKER HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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"Bulldog...It's more than our mascot; it's our character"

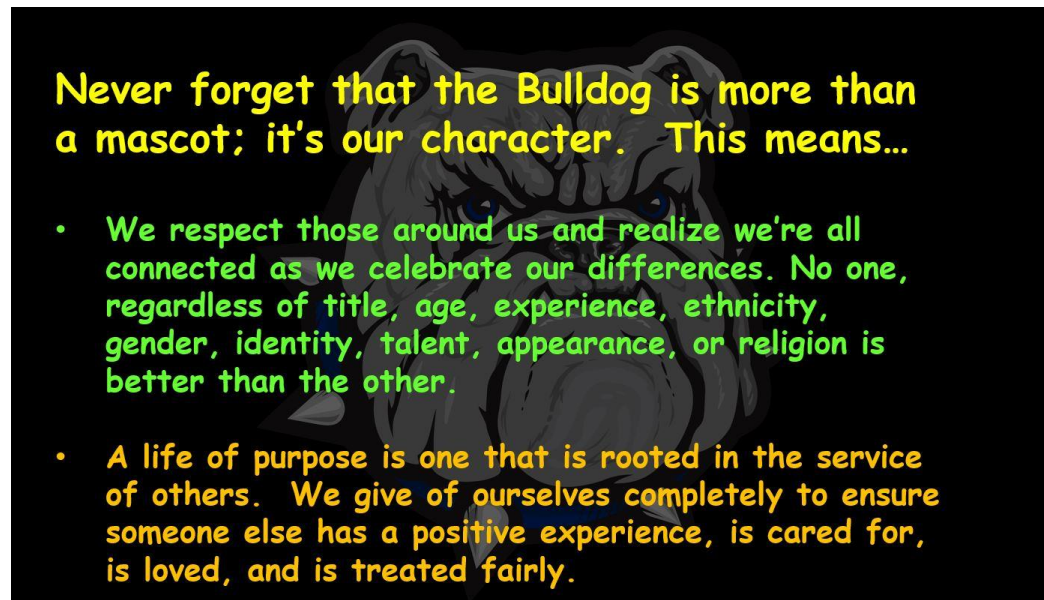
*Michael J. D'Ostilio
Principal*

*Gregory Muscelli, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal*

November 8, 2022

Dear Bulldog Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. Over the weekend, I will be sending the routine Principal's Update. However, I wanted to take the time to write you regarding a concern I have as a principal. First and foremost, we at Bunker Hill are very fortunate to have a great group of students. As a whole they truly embody what it means to be a Bulldog and subscribe our two expectations. We post these expectations in every classroom and work to remind students of this on a routine basis. A copy of the poster is below.



We constantly talk about this being who we strive to be. While we are all imperfect, we believe we all have the capacity to do better, and it is the quest to be better that helps us grow and helps us mature throughout this middle school journey. As a principal, I am committed to living and conveying this Bulldog mantra and instilling this in our students.

While I am forever proud of leading the Bunker Hill Bulldogs, I cannot only celebrate when Bunker Hill is receiving accolades, I must also address circumstances that seek to compromise the culture we are trying to build. I must illuminate when what is happening does not coincide with our ethical code. This is the purpose of my letter to you this evening – to address a situation and seek support to preserve the

ethics and the culture of our school. I have already garnered the support of our staff and am looking for your support as parents and family members as well.

Since the middle of October, Dr. Muscelli, the counselors and I have had to address a more than a handful of concerns where students are making comments and jokes about race. These actions violate the Anti Bullying Bill of Rights and are subjected to Tier II discipline per the Code of Conduct. There is never a scenario where these words can be tolerated whether joking or not.

Moreover, since the middle of October, I have sat in on numerous meetings, phone calls, and talked to numerous people. I have witnessed the pain our families have to endure by realizing that these words have made their way into Bunker Hill. The families are saddened, rightly seeking support and action from their child's school, and genuinely concerned for their children. This is certainly not a majority of our students who are making such comments, but over the last two weeks it has reared its head in lunchroom jokes

Therefore, tomorrow 11/9/22, we as a staff plan to address the entire student body in three separate class meetings. We will talk about our values. We will discuss why these words need to be eradicated from our vocabulary. Similarly, we will have smaller follow-up conversations throughout the year to ensure we as a school community are moving in the same direction. The ultimate goal is that students take a stand against these words each and every time by reporting it to an adult and not participating in the behavior because no child should have to endure hearing them.

At this time, what I ask of all families this extended weekend is to find time talking with your children about why these words have no place anywhere and help them build capacity to realize what to do to ensure the words are eliminated here at school. Please follow up with them about the assembly and reach out to us if needed. We have a great group of families with great children. The partnership that we have with the families brings much pride to the staff here at BHMS. Working together on this will help our Bulldogs grow and make more responsible decisions.

Thank you for devoting time to this, and I apologize for the lateness of the letter but truly appreciate your support. Thank you also for helping us to continue to promote the Bulldog ideals and that a Bulldog is more than a mascot; it's our character.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike D'Ostilio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "D".

Mike D'Ostilio