



# 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*

January 22, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of students in Mrs. Mallett's 6<sup>th</sup> period class.

During this week we have had lessons in social studies classes with a focus on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy as well as the 2021 Presidential Inauguration. These topics are noteworthy topics in a social studies class as we reflect on the customs of our Democracy as well as the noteworthy efforts of those who gave of themselves during the Civil Rights Movement to yearn for equal rights for all.

Additionally, Bunker Hill Middle School works very hard to eradicate bias and micro-aggressions toward populations based on race, religion, ethnicity, ability, and gender identity and expression. Racism, bigotry, and aggression (whether passive or overt) have no place in our classrooms, halls, athletic fields, or school buses. Moreover, through our Building Better People and No Place for Hate Initiatives we have set a standard for ourselves.

We firmly and unequivocally assert that "Bunker Hill will become a school community that seeks to eradicate internal and/or explicit bias in terms of race, ethnicity, ability, religion, and gender identity, expression, and preference." Therefore, as a principal I will not stand for anything or anyone that seeks to degrade another based on the traits above.

Today, I am embarrassed and appalled that one of the 20 students in this class made a point to illuminate that they do not hold the ideals of a Bulldog and engaged in rhetoric that is divisive and racist. The students were to answer an open ended question; instead of answering the question, the student made references and phrases to women and African Americans. The individual further engaged in a cowardly act by typing in an alias for their name and logging into another computer so as not to be found. The act therefore was not impulsive but a calculated effort to offend a group of individuals.

I am saddened that one of our 11 or 12 year-old young students engaged in such bigotry. Similarly, I am saddened that some of our young students were subjected to such vitriol. Because the student went through such lengths to spread their hateful terminology, it is taking longer to identify the culprit. We have reached out to our technology department and notified the company that supports our learning software at school. While it may be more difficult, I am committed to figuring out the identity of this person. What happened today is not only a violation of the district's code of conduct but a violation of

our ideals as a Bulldog, a school, and as a compassionate group of people. This cannot and will not be tolerated in our school.

Thank you for your reading this and engaging in conversation with your child. If you or your child can provide me or Mrs. Mallett with some additional information to assist in our investigation, it is most appreciated. Thank you for all you do to support BHMS in the quest to maintain the highest standards of character.

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