



Bunker Hill Middle School

372 Pitman Downer Road
Sewell, NJ 08080

(856)-881-7007
FAX (856)-881-5414

"Carrying on a Proud Tradition of Learning"

Michael J. D'Ostilio
Principal

Gregory B. Muscelli, EdD
Assistant Principal

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Dear Bulldog Families:

I wanted to let you know about our kick-off for the No Place For Hate and Building Better People initiatives. Today during lunch, students signed the promise and resolution for No Place for Hate. I have embedded Resolution of Respect in this letter. We have partnered with Lifetouch (the company that takes our school pictures) to create vinyl banners that we will display in our gymnasium. We also have banners with the signatures of all our students. We decided to display this in the gymnasium for several reasons: It would have the most prominent display, it would be seen by all, and it would provide a constant reminder of what we promised.

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

We pledge, from this day forward, to do our best to combat prejudice and to stop those who violate the civil rights of others. We will seek to understand those who are different. We believe that one person can make a difference and that no person should stand by when it comes to opposing hate. We will speak out against prejudice and discrimination. We will reach out to those who are victims of hate. We know that we must all promote harmony, equality and respect. By signing this pledge, we commit ourselves to creating a community that is No Place for Hate.

During the lunches, I spoke about the No Place for Hate initiative as supported by the Anti-Defamation League. I discussed how No Place for Hate is aimed at helping schools to provide programs and education to help eradicate instances of prejudice, hate, and civil rights violations in schools. I spoke with the students that the ideals put forth from No Place For Hate are congruent to the expectations we have as Bunker Hill Bulldogs and how a "Bulldog is more than a mascot; it's our character."

I continued to define what the term "Micro-aggression" meant and illuminate some examples for the students. I also informed the students that we (as a whole) do a very good job at Bunker Hill respecting differences, especially with regard to race, religion, and ability. I illuminated the irony that most of our Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Cases center around race, religion, and ability, and how concerning it is that our greatest strength is also our greatest weakness. The discussion then became a commitment to remove this weakness and enhance our strength.

Today, was an excellent day. Students were fully attentive, and they seemed to fully grasp the magnitude of what I was saying. They also seemed to recognize that while they are good people, they still have work to do to set the example for those around them and those coming after them. Today was one of the many days that I was reminded how proud I am to be a Bulldog. Again, your children showed the highest of character. They were considerate, empathetic, compassionate, and eager to take on the challenge of being a school that promised to abide by the ideals of No Place for Hate. All of you would have been proud of your children today.

If you have any questions, please reach out via phone or email. I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

Very Truly Yours,

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

Mike D'Ostilio