



Dear Eagle Families:

I hope this communication finds you and your family well. As we are wrapping up the 23-24 school year, I wanted to touch base with our families and ask for your partnership in addressing some inappropriate actions and behaviors that are on the rise in our community. We have and will continue to address these concerning behaviors from a disciplinary perspective, but I think education and clear expectations from both the home and the school are necessary to eliminate these behaviors from happening in the first place. I believe that when the school and families align in expectations it creates a much stronger, more positive, inclusive environment for all students.

The first area of concern we have is surrounding trash and vandalism to the building. Heritage is a place where many people spend a great deal of time. Disrespecting and damaging the building, writing profanity and inappropriate messages on walls and throwing/leaving trash and garbage strewn around the tables and floors is unacceptable. We ask that parents have a conversation with their students about being a strong, positive member of the community. This is not the behavior we expect from young adults and does not represent the ideals of Pride, Character, and Excellence that our community prides itself on. We will institute disciplinary consequences for any student identified as being involved in these behaviors.

Another major area of concern we are seeing in our community is the use of inappropriate and derogatory language, pictures, memes, drawings and social media postings regarding race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion. All students/families are entitled to their personal viewpoints and beliefs; however, when those beliefs impact other students' ability to have a safe, welcoming and positive learning environment, a line is crossed. We will not tolerate the use or posting of derogatory, hateful language or images that devalue other people. These types of actions are extremely disruptive and may have real impacts for students, including in some cases, legal action, loss of college acceptance, and removal from teams and organizations. I am imploring parents to have a conversation with students about refraining from using this type of language or posting things online. Even if these students do not understand what they are posting or its meaning, they could suffer potential consequences and unintended outcomes. I call on all of our students to be students of action. If you see or hear something inappropriate, say something! Our goal each and every day is to create a safe and welcoming environment for ALL students as we strive to create a sense of belonging and connectedness to each other and the high school experience.

As we close out this school year and turn the page to the next one, it is my hope and desire that the Heritage Community will continue to exemplify the values of Pride, Character, and Excellence through our everyday behaviors, our interactions with others and the respect we show to the building and community we all share. One of my favorite expressions is so powerful and yet so simple and I want all of our students to live it: "Be a good person"! I think one of the most important lessons we impart on youth is respect for themselves, respect for each other and respect for your community. Thank you for your partnership and willingness to help educate our young people about these important life lessons. I look forward to a successful final six weeks and all the excitement the end of the year brings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Riendeau".

Stacey Riendeau
Principal