



BENICIA HIGH SCHOOL

1101 Military West Benicia, CA 94510

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Dear Benicia High School Community:

School administrators and staff are aware of an event planned for tomorrow that is not school related but that we feel is important to address. Tomorrow night, Friday, April 13th, many Benicia teens plan to participate in an annual event referred to as "La Migra." We want to provide awareness about this event and see it brought to an end for two important reasons: safety concerns for our students and the inappropriate and offensive nature of the game. The Benicia Unified School District promotes the safety and well-being of all our students. We do not support or promote activities students may choose to engage in that are in any way counter to our mission.

"La Migra" is Mexican slang for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and is the name used for this controversial game based on ICE agents deporting undocumented immigrants. The event involves older students playing ICE agents and younger students playing immigrants or runners. The event begins at one location with the younger students attempting to get to a second designated location without being caught by an older student. A student that is captured is dropped off in an unknown location. There are reports of extremely unsafe situations in the course of this event, including unsafe driving, speeding, physical contact causing injury, unsafe physical detainment, and students being left without the ability to contact someone to pick them up. We feel it is important to speak up in order to keep students from being injured or harmed.

In addition to the safety concerns, Benicia High School strongly advocates for respect of all individuals, regardless of race, place of origin, sexual orientation, or disability. We encourage every family to discuss this event and use this as an opportunity for education and understanding, rather than allowing this event to be a part of the tradition and the identity of our community. Many students and staff at Benicia High School have voiced their opposition to the event due to the name and reference to deportation of Mexican immigrants. We feel it is important to speak up rather than to silently allow this to happen.

The young adults of Benicia are creative, talented, intelligent individuals who have the potential to join together to make a difference in our community. It is our intention that "La Migra" not continue in our town and that we come together to participate in a new, more positive, and inclusive social experience.

Sincerely,

Brianna Kleinschmidt
Principal, Benicia High School