

April 14, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

To be sure, the last week has been a challenging one for everyone involved with our school. We have students and staff members whose emotions have been stirred in a variety of ways.

I firmly believe, however, it is times of strife and adversity that often allow for the greatest opportunities for change and growth, and in perhaps the perfect example of a teachable moment, that is exactly the road on which we are embarking.

Our intent over the last two days has been to allow for honest and open dialogue that I view as crucial to our ability to move forward as a school and community. I can say to you unequivocally that I have never been more proud of this group of students, parents, and incredible staff than I am right now.

I have had the opportunity to sit and listen to scores of students and staff members express their frustration, their anger, and their hurt. The conversations have been difficult and the lenses through which this situation is viewed have differed, but there has been a single constant: the desire for Knight Nation to be more united.

I have been humbled and moved as I have heard our students, seemingly far wiser than their years, taking part in calm, productive, and fruitful conversations. They have offered well-thought-out suggestions that they believe will ultimately lead us to be a better school for all students. I have been heartened and inspired by the way our students have rallied around each other and expressed the need for unity in the midst of an issue that has caused divisiveness, and I have been amazed at the outpouring of support from students for our staff, who work so hard to elevate every student who walks through our doors.

As adults in our schools, we are charged with guiding our students. In this case, our students have been true leaders. As parents, you should be incredibly proud of them.

I assure you that these conversations will continue. I intend to put together a student advisory group to provide ongoing input not just on this topic, but others as we move ahead. In addition, I plan to meet with our community stakeholder group. This group is comprised of local clergy, administration, business owners, parents, faculty, and staff.

It is a privilege to lead North County High School. I believe that even in challenging times, we endeavor to, as our motto proclaims, STAND Tall. Over the last two days we have done exactly that, and I hope that you will continue to support your child and our efforts. Please join us in our student driven Twitter campaign, #U-KNIGHTED, in our show of solidarity.

Sincerely,

Julie Cares
Principal

JC/bm