

From the Office of the Principal

December 18, 2018

Dear DSA Families,

We have been made aware of an offensive social media account that was created by some of our students. While we cannot share details due to student privacy, please know that appropriate actions are being taken to address this. We have also contacted the parents of the students involved.

The social media account was seen by staff members and students who were offended and hurt by the posts. We encourage our students to express themselves in positive ways, and we were saddened to see the social media posts that do not reflect our school community core values.

At DSA, we pride ourselves on our school's rich diversity and using the arts as a basis for social justice. We recognize that it is our responsibility to make sure each of our students feel respected and valued. We would like to remind our students and school community that incidents of discrimination and harassment are unacceptable and corrosive to our school culture and are go against our core values.

We take allegations of harassment based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or religion very seriously. We will follow the district policies to investigate allegations of discrimination and harassment (board policies AC and AC-R1).

I also want to reiterate the following important messages to our school community:

- Our school is a safe place, and we honor and value the diversity of our students, parents and staff.
- Bigotry, bullying and inappropriate behavior are not tolerated at DSA.
- Our school, community, city, state and world are full of caring, compassionate and supportive people who are committed to equity and social justice for all people.
- Education is the most valuable and powerful asset for creating a better future.

We would also like to ask that you take this opportunity to talk with your students about the importance of being responsible digital citizens and remind them of the impact their words and photos can have on their peers when shared on social media. Please let them know that even on "disappearing media," such as Snapchat and Instagram, this does not necessarily mean the post is gone forever or cannot be viewed by others, including law enforcement. In addition to screenshots being taken, there are a number of other ways images and posts are preserved. If inappropriate images are saved or shared with others, this could result in unintended consequences for the sharing student, family, and school. Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions about our school's policies regarding inclusivity.

Finally, in order for us to respond to concerns about discriminatory or harassing behavior, we must know about it. To report concerns, please reach out to me; text or call [Safe2Tell.org](https://www.safe2tell.org) (can be anonymous); or contact the DPS family helpline at 720-423-3054.

Sincerely,



William M. Kohut,
Principal