

Nov. 10, 2021

PLHS Staff and Families,

We want to provide you with an update on our school day at Prior Lake High School (PLHS). We know there were many unfounded rumors swirling around today. Rest assured, students were safe, learning and cared for by our staff. As an extra safety measure, two additional Savage Police officers were on campus today to support students and staff.

Today PLHS counselors, staff and administrators continued to create extra space, as needed, for our students to talk about the horrific racist video shared by a student on social media that we all were made aware of yesterday. In various forums, we discussed ways in which we as a learning community can respectfully listen to one another, create safe spaces and heal moving forward.

Our immediate concern is the health and well-being of our students. We take the ramifications of the video very seriously and know there is much we can continue to do in the days, weeks and months ahead to ensure we are making our school a safe and respectful place. The investigation of this student's actions remains underway. Due to data privacy, we are not able to share additional details.

This horrific video continues to impact all of us in the community, and will cause pain and hurt for many. At PLSAS, our top priority is to provide safe, supportive and inclusive learning environments for all students. One of our Core Values in PLSAS is to value ourselves, each other and our world across all differences. The video that was shared ran counter to every one of those values.

We ask everyone to reflect on our shared values and what it means to be a welcoming and inclusive school community. Staff are working with student leaders to discuss ways we can come together in creating a safe and respectful learning environment. Part of what we do to heal and move forward will continue to include student voice and we will share our action steps with you as they are developed.

The MN Dept. of Education has resources that you might find helpful in responding to racism, violence and trauma. <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/safe/res/mde033973>

We thank everyone for their care and concern for our students and our school community.

Teri Staloch, Ed. D., Superintendent  
John Bezek, Ed. D., Prior Lake High School Principal