



Dear Bothell High School Families and Staff,

As most of you are aware, there has been media coverage regarding our football program. This is a complex situation, and somewhere in the media coverage, accuracy took a backseat to inflammatory innuendos making it more complex. So, I will share what is appropriate and legally acceptable.

The articles actually dealt with two separate investigations. The first involved a student that initially told police he had overheard other students discussing inappropriate behavior by other students. In March 2019, that student shared concerns regarding a conversation he'd overheard, the student was immediately taken to the school resource officer and, according to the Bothell Police Department, a nearly month-long investigation was launched that day. The final police report indicated no victim or evidence of criminal behavior. Despite the findings of the police investigation, Bothell High School administration and athletic staff worked closely to increase supervision in the locker room.

The second investigation involved the August football camp. I can confirm that the investigation was thorough and students were disciplined. Federal privacy laws prohibit disclosure of disciplinary actions. In addition, there are team sanctions which include the overnight portion of the camp being permanently cancelled, overnights for WIAA state playoffs (except for Spokane or Walla Walla) have been cancelled, coaching staff and administrators have an even greater presence before, during and after practices, and behavioral expectations were reviewed with players by the head coach, athletic director and myself. At a separate all-team meeting, our school resource officer, who is also an officer with the Bothell Police Department, discussed boundaries, warned against the actions investigated, and explained how such actions could result in legal consequences.

We are using this opportunity to review our practices and make sure that we continue our efforts in promoting a healthy and safe environment for all students. Moving forward, we will increase our training for all coaching staff and athletes on understanding and respecting boundaries. Every athlete at our school is required to sign an Athletic Code of Conduct. The District will review that document and revise as necessary to be clear about boundaries and behavioral expectations. I am currently working with staff to identify the earliest possible date when we can educate our student body on appropriate behavior and boundaries as well as methods to safely report concerns.

Again, inappropriate behaviors, such as those that triggered an investigation, will not be tolerated. We have and will continue to vigorously investigate allegations of misconduct regardless of where they occur, and will follow through with appropriate consequences, education, and adjustments in policy and practice where appropriate. Our student's safety is our most important priority. Anyone can also make an anonymous report of concerns using our [SafeSchools reporting tool](#). If you or your student needs to report criminal behavior, please dial 911.

Finally, I ask you to collaborate with us by speaking with your student about these events that greatly impacted our school community. We will continue to have these conversations with all of our students throughout the school year. We are better together.

Build. Belong. Become.

Juan Price
Principal