

Mt. Lebanon School District

Response to Swastika Incidents

The members of the Mt. Lebanon School District are saddened and disappointed anytime an individual draws a swastika in one of our buildings or on one of our grounds. We understand the impact that this type of event has on our community, and we want to strongly emphasize that this behavior is unacceptable.

Our Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of a Safe, Welcoming, and Inclusive school community, and any incident of this nature serves as a reminder that this difficult, yet important work needs to continue in our schools and community.

We continue to build upon our past work to educate our community but also will make every effort to find those responsible. An overview of our efforts to educate, prevent, and respond to this type of an incident is described below:

A district led **investigation** occurs for any and every instance:

- Immediately contact MLPD
- Interview student(s) who may have knowledge of the incident
- Review camera footage, if available

Students and student groups are engaged in **meaningful conversations**, as they are an active participant in the problem-solving process.

Collaboration occurs with our **community partners** to receive meaningful guidance:

- Consultation with our local Rabbis
- Communication with the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh and the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh occurs as they have been instrumental in providing the District with educational materials and guest speakers.
- Resources are obtained from the Anti-Defamation League

The power of words and symbols is the focus of our **education** with students.

- Teacher-led discussion
- Grade or team level assemblies that focus on reinforcing expectations & advancing the educational focus
- Tuesday Talk meetings
- Guest speakers

Offering **parent resources** to our community so that they can assist the district in its efforts. Examples include:

- [How to talk to Children about Antisemitism](#)
- [Anti-Defamation League \(ADL\): Talking to Young Children about Bias and Prejudice](#)
- [Talking to Children About Hate Crimes](#)
- [Healthy Children. org : Talking to Children About Racial Bias](#)
- [American Psychological Association: Talking to kids about discrimination](#)
- [ADL: Hate Symbols - Table Talk: Family Conversations About Current Events](#)