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Governor Wentworth Regional School District

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Helping Each Child Create the Future

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January 17, 2025

Dear Families of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District,

As we reflect on the past year, it is imperative to reaffirm our district's unwavering commitment to equity and our zero-tolerance stance against hate speech. A year ago, the Governor Wentworth Regional School District made a decisive move by adopting its first equity policy, a foundational step toward ensuring that **every** student is valued, supported, and given the opportunity to succeed. Let me be clear: there is no place for hate in our schools. **Everyone belongs. All means all.**

Our Unyielding Commitment to Equity

Our district is a community of learners dedicated to ensuring that success is accessible to every student, embracing all aspects of their identity, including race, ethnicity, family economics, mobility, language, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, initial proficiencies, or religion. This commitment goes beyond words; it's about creating a school environment where each student can thrive, free from barriers and biases.

Equity is not a passive goal; it is an active pursuit. It demands that we provide **equitable access** to resources, recognizing that fair treatment sometimes requires **differentiated support**. This commitment is embedded in every policy, practice, and resource allocation decision we make. It's about holding ourselves accountable to the belief that:

1. Every student can excel when given equitable access to learning opportunities and high expectations.
2. Resource allocation must meet the unique needs of our students, not just provide equality in numbers.
3. We must eliminate disparities to prepare all students for their futures.
4. A welcoming, inclusive environment is essential for academic and personal success.

Concrete Actions and Future Steps

Over the past year, we have embedded equity into our strategic plan, which outlines targeted professional development and concrete action steps to foster a culture of belonging. The district-wide equity task force is conducting an equity audit to guide us in enhancing our approach across all schools. These actions are just the beginning. We are committed to continuing this important work until **every student feels they belong and can succeed.**

Standing Firm Against Hate Speech

Despite our progress, we have encountered incidents of hate speech in our schools. Let me be unequivocal: **hate speech will not be tolerated**. Using the UN's definition, hate speech is any form of communication that attacks individuals or groups based on who they are. This applies to all student life in school—whether in classrooms, on our buses, in athletics, theater productions, or any other school-related activity. When such incidents occur, our first priority is to support and follow the lead of those impacted, ensuring they feel seen, heard, and protected.

Restorative practices will be used to educate our students, but discipline will be firm. For the first offense of hate speech in school, students will face a three-day out-of-school suspension. We will exercise discretion when addressing these incidents with our youngest students and those with disabilities, ensuring that disciplinary actions are appropriate and supportive of their developmental and individual needs. These consequences reflect the seriousness of hate speech and our absolute commitment to maintaining a safe environment. We have experienced pushback, but this is non-negotiable. We need your partnership to prevent hate speech. We cannot do this alone.

A Collective Responsibility


As we continue to advance our equity plan and work with students individually, we will provide updates. Our teachers and principals are actively engaging students with themes of equity and belonging, particularly as we approach Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Day and Black History Month. These initiatives are not confined to specific days or months; they are a year-round commitment to ensuring **all** students feel safe, valued, and included.

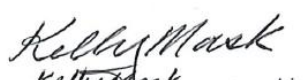
We are asking for your partnership in this vital work. Together, we must create a culture where **everyone belongs** and where hate has no place. **All means all**, and we will not rest until this vision is realized.

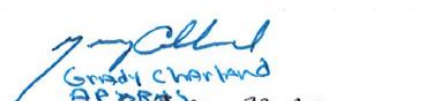
Thank you for standing with us in this mission.

Sincerely,


Caroline Arakelian
Superintendent


Heather Cummings
Asst. Superintendent



Kelly Mask
Director of Special Education
& Counseling Services


Pathmanabey Ekingram
Principal

Kaitlyn E. Hills
Kaitlyn Hills
Director of Curriculum



Paul Fauli
Principal
KRHS

Kerry Hunt
Kerry Hunt
Principal KRMS


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CLS Principal



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Kathy Tetreault
Kathy Tetreault
LRTC - Principal


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