



NORTH ATLANTA HIGH SCHOOL  
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June 25, 2020

Dear North Atlanta Community,

We are aware of the recent video postings made by North Atlanta High School students using racial slurs. We have received dozens of emails from students and families both inside and outside of the North Atlanta community, expressing their pain, grief and disbelief about the postings. The videos are insensitive, mean spirited, and inconsistent with our school mission statement that begins with the words, "Through a nurturing culture that embraces diversity..."

Atlanta Public Schools and North Atlanta High School do not condone racist behavior and there are consequences for students who violate the Code of Conduct. Many of the emails that were received suggested hopeful consequences for the students who make and post such videos. However, it is important to understand that while the videos are public, any consequences that may be implemented by the school system must remain private, per FERPA. Additionally, the students in the videos have made self-initiated, public apologies. Acknowledging that one has committed a wrongful act is the first step in the right direction.

While our country continues to have a difficult time respecting and embracing the wide range of views and differences that exist within the United States, our North Atlanta community, the most diverse in APS, must hold firm to the IB tenet of respect. The IB mission is to "promote intercultural understanding and respect, not as an alternative to a sense of cultural and national identity, but as an essential part of life in the 21st century." At North Atlanta High School, we will continue to engage in activities and programs that educate our students and community about the importance of respectful discourse and hold firm that we do not condone any behavior that fosters hate, divisiveness, or discriminatory practices.

NAHS has made great strides towards creating a community that puts respect at the forefront. As a recognized "No Place For Hate" school, the diversity of our students, staff, and community is strongly supported and applauded by our PTSA, Go Team, NAPPS, and community as a whole. Our students interact positively on a daily basis in classes, sports teams, performing and visual arts, clubs, school wide protest, etc. However, we would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge that we still have work to do.

Although there are many programs and activities already in place, we are committed to increasing our focus on inclusion and unity by hosting student dialogues that will focus on open mindedness, understanding, and mutual respect. NAHS will also plan opportunities for our student leaders to work cooperatively with faculty to brainstorm solutions that move us forward, collectively.

Please continue to practice behaviors that will keep you safe as you enjoy the rest of your summer vacation.

Sincerely,

Curtis Douglass  
Principal