



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(631) 382-2006

January 23, 2024

Dear Smithtown School Community,

This afternoon, it was reported that racist graffiti was found on a desk at Smithtown High School East. This news is greatly upsetting, but it is important for our school community to be made aware of such incidents and work collaboratively to oppose hate whenever it occurs.

Once aware of this incident, the district immediately notified the Suffolk County Police Department. Officers from the 4th Precinct arrived promptly, took a report, and the incident has been referred to the Hate Crimes Task Force. Should we identify the person responsible for this incident, strict disciplinary action and possible criminal charges will ensue.

As I have shared in several messages, we have a moral and legal obligation to provide a safe, supportive environment for all of our students. It is codified in state law with the Dignity for All Students Act and via Board of Education Policies #0115 [Student Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#) and #5300 [Code of Conduct](#). This obligation is also outlined in one of this year's Board of Education goals, which states:

"... all students must feel that they are welcome, they belong, and they are supported in every school, and success in this work will be built upon a foundation of respect, diversity, equity, inclusion, access and opportunity."

We, once again, ask for your assistance in speaking with your children about the seriousness and likely consequences for such acts, and to encourage them to make good decisions that respect every student's right to attend school in a safe and supportive environment. With your cooperation and collaboration, we can help create the environment we all want for our children to thrive.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.
Superintendent