



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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

November 30, 2023

Dear Smithtown School Community,

It saddens me to share this with you, but late this morning, it was reported that anti-semitic graffiti was found on a door at Smithtown High School West. As was stated in a recent letter, we know that 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. Anti-semitism, or any form of hatred, has no place in our schools or community and will not be tolerated.

If you or your child is struggling during this very difficult time, please know we are here to help. Northwell has set up an Emotional Support Service for parents and staff that can be accessed [HERE](#). Of course, our dedicated staff stands ready to assist our students and families should they need it.

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 a thorough investigation will take place. Should we identify the person responsible for this incident, strict disciplinary action will ensue and criminal charges will be recommended.

As I have stated in past communications, we have a moral and legal obligation to provide a safe, supportive environment for all of our students. This obligation is also outlined in one of this year's Board of Education goals, which states:

*"... the Board will continue its commitment to provide equitable opportunities and resources so that all students 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."*

Once again, we must all reflect on the role we play in teaching our children and each other not to hate and we implore you to be partners with us in this work. As I stated in last week's letter, the district is evaluating our approach to this work and discussing what else should be done. We anticipate being able to share additional details in the weeks ahead.

Please speak 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