

## Hate Incident in Our Community Archived

San Mateo Union High School District • 9 months ago • Friday, Dec 17 at 2:00 PM • **San Mateo Union High School District**

Dear Families and Students:

Our District was informed Wednesday about an incident that occurred at a middle school in our community last week. SMUHSD students harassed a parent and two elementary school aged children from their vehicle as the family played on a nearby field. It appears that one of these individuals used a painful racial slur directed at this family.

The San Mateo Union High School District denounces all hate incidents including the use of racial slurs or threatening behavior. We are gathering information about the incident to decide appropriate next steps. We take this type of behavior very seriously as it cuts to the core of who we are, what we stand for, and what we aspire to become as a District. We are committed to providing a **safe learning and working environment** that is free from discrimination and harassment and where all students feel safe. The District does not tolerate hate-motivated incidents or crimes based on race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or retaliation in any form for reporting such incidents/crimes.

We seek appropriate disciplinary action and restorative justice that serves our community as a whole, and all that were harmed in the incident. Repairing the damage such incidents cause is our top priority, and we will work with all parties involved to disrupt patterns of hate incidents.

The harm of this event reverberates through our whole community. It has the potential to particularly affect our students of color and their sense of safety and belonging. As a school community, we commit to move beyond simply denouncing the incident and towards bringing awareness and learning in our classroom and school communities. This is all of our work and in some ways the most important work we need to engage as educators. This work will continue into the new year and beyond.

Last Winter, our District embarked on an **anti-racist school and community transformational journey**. As a District we are committed to: developing an anti-racist organization, positive educational experiences, accountability and equity-focused outcomes. This is on-going work and it is our responsibility and privilege to uphold these values.

We know these events may be traumatizing to our students. While schools are closed, we want to remind you of the mental health resources available in our community. **Here** is a list of community resources for support during the winter break and beyond.

I encourage our community members to reach out to me if you have questions and or ideas for disrupting these incidents of hate speech. We are committed to listening to our community on how we can do better as a learning organization. Our community members are also encouraged to report any safety issue to a school administrator or via **Anonymous Alerts**. It is our collaboration as a community that makes us stronger. We appreciate your role in this partnership.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Skelly, Ph.D.  
Superintendent