

Dear Prior Lake High School staff and families:

I'm writing to inform you that a serious and disturbing racist video was posted on social media by one of our students. This morning we received several reports regarding the video, which goes against everything for which our school stands. To be clear, our school does not tolerate racism or hate speech.

Here's what we're doing:

- We have launched an investigation into the students involved with the video and will take appropriate action.
- Our Strategic Plan calls for us to provide a safe, secure and supportive environment that nurtures the social and emotional well-being of all learners. To that end, this morning I sent a message to all students and staff addressing the video, asking students to reflect on our values and what it means to be a welcoming and inclusive school.
- Later today we will be gathering together some student leaders to discuss ways we can move forward in a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

Racist messages like the ones in the video create an environment that is hostile to learning. I want to assure students and staff that we are committed to their safety and emotional well-being.

Over the past several years, we have been engaging in conversations with students in an effort to create a respectful school environment. We are determined to continue to work with students and create opportunities for open dialogue so that they can be heard. This includes educating students about the impact of their actions and the consequences if they choose to infringe on the rights of others.

Sincerely,

John Bezek, Ed. D.
Principal, PLHS