

HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL 2016-2017
WHY NOT US? WHY NOT NOW?
BUILDING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Dear Highlands High School Families,

Since the beginning of this school year, we have been quite excited to work with each of you as stakeholders and with your children as our students. Each and every one of them deserves the best possible school environment in which they can live out our RAMS culture of being Respectful, Accountable, Motivated, and Safe at all times.

We began the year with a charge of “Why Not Us? Why Not Now?” and have been working diligently with our students, families, and community to build a culture of excellence in the Highlands School District. It is very important to us that we take every measure to ensure our school and learning environment meet and exceed the highest of expectations, and we strive daily to be intentional and purposeful in eliminating any actions, attitudes, or beliefs that do not reflect the school our students deserve.

There are many things in our society that can threaten the culture we are trying to build, including the proliferation of and condoning of views that are offensive, derogatory, or threatening to other individuals or groups of individuals. Our kids are far too important to allow these views to be tolerated in our schools, and we take any kind of expression of prejudiced views regarding race, religion, socioeconomic status, or other traits as serious attempts to derail our community.

We want to be proactive in addressing any prejudiced views in our school and community, and encourage each of you to join us in a positive and solution focused dialogue. We will be holding town hall meetings throughout the community this year and would like to invite you to share your valuable insights about how we can move forward together. Additionally, we have developed a mentoring schedule in which we will regularly meet with our student body to discuss many topics, including prejudice in our society and just how much damage and hurt these views can create.

As we move forward together, there will be times where individuals within our school exhibit attitudes and behaviors outside of the culture we are trying to build. Recently a specific post involving derogatory racial tones was spread through social media. You have our assurance that any reports of inappropriate or threatening behavior will be fully investigated and that we will respond appropriately based on the result of our investigation. These types of actions are totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

You can greatly assist us in several ways. First, please consider having a positive dialogue with your child about the importance of us being a unified community. Second, please consider joining us for our town hall meetings. Third, please contact us with any ideas or concerns you may have regarding your child. Including any information regarding offensive or inappropriate behavior. In your report, it is most helpful if you can give us details such as specific comments that were made, what individuals were nearby, and any written or digital information that may aid us.


We thank you greatly for your support of our school, and we look forward to building a culture of excellence together. Why Not Us? Why Not Now?

Sincerely,

Dan Gottron,
Principal 11-12

Kim Price,
Principal 9-10

Pat Hassler
Dean of Students



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