

GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOL
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OVER 85 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

October 21, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, & Students:

The following message was delivered to the student body this morning regarding school culture and the necessity for us to work collectively to continuously improve and grow. We believed it was important to share with you as well.

Good morning.....at this time, I would like to take a moment to address the student body.

I understand this does not apply to everyone, however, if we are to be a community, then the message needs to be heard by everyone.

There have been a few issues recently brought to our attention that relate to appropriate student behavior. While I, along with the entire faculty and staff, remain advocates...guiding you and encouraging you all to make good decisions, we are in need of improvement.....the vandalism in the bathrooms, social media etiquette, and fair and respectful treatment of all students in the building are good places to start.

NICHE may rank us as one of best academic high schools in the state, however, when we look deeper into our social relationships and behavior, we are falling short, and this is disheartening.....we as a school community are better than this and each one of us should move away from thinking solely of ourselves as individuals and consider the impact our actions have on those around us.

We earned the no place for hate designation and this is not for show nor is it something to take lightly. It is to be viewed as one of many steps we need to take on a daily basis to improve upon the culture of the building. As a school, we will be making this a priority with zero tolerance for those who believe they are above this approach to fostering the school community we all desire and deserve. This is an opportunity for all students, clubs, and activities to come together for the common good and work together....it is an opportunity to celebrate each other and opt to raise each other up rather than tear each other down, it is a opportunity to choose humanity vs inhumanity.....

Again, I realize I am talking to the majority who believe this.....However, this is a time to present the following challenges to you: I challenge you to put these beliefs into action, to rise above the fray within your social groups and do what is right, to get those that are the culprits of disrespectful behavior to realize they are in the minority and this is not OK in YOUR school and when you see or hear something, say something. As a school we have an opportunity to alter our trajectory.....

When people think and talk about GNNHS should they solely think of our great academic program and exemplary student achievements? GNNHS should also be synonymous with quality of character...and how our student body exhibits kindness and inclusiveness in our community.....within the school walls and out. We are here to support you and any ideas you have to share in order to make this vision a reality, our doors are always open. Lets' take these critical steps forward together.

Thank you for your attention and your consideration.