



New Paltz
Central School District

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Barbara P. Clinton

Principal

Owen K. Kelso

Assistant Principal

March 27, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with tremendous disappointment that I am writing to you this afternoon to share some despicable information. Earlier today, a student discovered a swastika and the word Jew marked on a wall in one of the boys' bathrooms at the High School.

The student immediately informed his teacher, who in turn notified the main office. Our assistant principal, Owen Kelso, locked the bathroom and contacted the Town of New Paltz Police Department for assistance. Officers were dispatched to the campus, took photographs, and opened an investigation. The offensive material will be removed prior to the restroom being reopened.

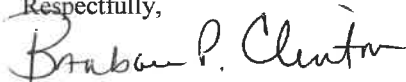
Although we are confident that a limited number of students may have personally come into contact with the abhorrent material, it is likely that many will hear about it. It is essential that every member of our school community understands that there is absolutely no tolerance for these hateful acts in our school district. This is not only an act of vandalism, it is a breach of humanity.

An investigation is underway, and the perpetrator(s) will be held accountable as outlined in our Code of Conduct. In addition, as part of its investigation, the police will also determine whether this act meets the criteria of a hate crime. Please speak with your child about the seriousness of this situation and the consequences that come from such hateful actions and encourage them to share any information they may have that can lead us to those responsible. The source of any information will be held in the strictest of confidences.

Please be assured that we will not permit the hateful acts of a few to make our students feel unwelcome or unsafe in our schools. Please join us – and encourage your children to also join us – in standing against this appalling behavior. Our teachers are having conversations with their classes about how unacceptable and disruptive this behavior is to their education. Many of our students are also taking direct action to speak out against this detestable conduct. Students involved in our production course are developing a public service announcement to air on NPZ.

Together, we will ensure the message is loud and clear that there will be no tolerance for hateful acts in our schools.

Respectfully,



Barbara Clinton
New Paltz High School Principal