

Sherwood High School

300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring, MD
20860 (301) 924-3200 FAX (301) 924-3220



October 7, 2021

Dear Principal Brown, and the Albert Einstein High School Community,

I am writing to share that two incidents have occurred at Sherwood High School that have had a negative and hurtful impact on the students and community of Albert Einstein High School. On September 30, 2021, during the girls varsity soccer game between Albert Einstein and Sherwood, there was a report made to our administration that members of our student cheering section made racist remarks directed toward Albert Einstein students. While investigating, our administrative team was made aware of another incident that took place on Monday, October 4, 2021, during a volleyball game, involving one of our students making racist and sexist remarks to a team member from Albert Einstein. A thorough investigation will be conducted and there will be serious consequences for these actions, in accordance with the Montgomery County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct.

As the principal of Sherwood High School I first want to apologize to you and the Albert Einstein High School community on behalf of our students, staff and community. I categorically condemn any, and all, racist behavior from our students and community. This is not who we are as a school and this behavior does not align with our core values. We are an inclusive and welcoming school that is committed to and will continue to do intentional and important work around race and equity with our staff, students, and parents. Further, I want to assure you that there is no place for this type of behavior and it will not be tolerated by me.

In our efforts to promptly and thoroughly investigate these reported racist behaviors, we missed an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the impact that these actions had on you and the members of your school community prior to this correspondence. For this we are truly sorry, and we are committed to improving our approach to matters of race and equity.

Sherwood High School appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with you and your school community to repair and restore our relationship. We are committed to the following actions to ensure that students and community members from Albert Einstein High School and all of our Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will experience a safe and welcoming environment where all are valued and respected.

- We will be meeting with our students tomorrow morning to reiterate our expectations for student and fan behavior at our athletic contests and community events. We will review our MCPS core values and the RAISE Core Values from Systemwide Athletics. We will hold ourselves and our students accountable to these core values.
- We will review our supervision protocols and practices at our athletic contests and community events to improve and enhance our ability to identify, interrupt and address

actions and behaviors that are racist, unruly, and unacceptable. We will address those instances swiftly and appropriately.

- We will travel to Albert Einstein High School on Monday, October 11, 2021, to engage in the first of a series of dialogues between our staff members and our student leadership to better understand the pain and hurt these actions have caused for your staff, students and community. Our conversations will be facilitated by the MCPS Equity Initiatives Unit and will guide us to repair the harm and restore our relationship.
- We will continue to engage in reflective and restorative practices within our own school community, inviting our parents, our staff, and our students to examine our school culture and how we are perceived within and outside of our community in an effort to strengthen our values and ensure a safe and respectful environment for individuals of every race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and belief. All are welcome at Sherwood High School.

The Sherwood students and I look forward to our meeting with you this coming Monday and beyond.

Respectfully,

Tim Britton

Mr. Tim Britton
Principal