



# James Madison High School

North East Independent School District

*"Tradition of Excellence"*

5005 Stahl Rd – San Antonio, Texas 78247

(210) 356-1400 / Fax (210) 637-4414



March 4, 2019

Madison Parents/Guardians,

I am writing this letter in response to the news article that ran in the Express-News in which Madison High School was portrayed in a manner that was not very complimentary. As we are all aware, recent tragic events have brought the Madison community into the forefront of the news. This tragedy affected many families in negative ways. My hope is that if anything good may come from this event, it is that our students will become more aware of what they say and do on social media and the impact their choices can have upon themselves as well as others.

The recent news article gives the impression that physical altercations on the Madison campus have become so common that students see them as part of daily life. I would argue that while we do have our situations on the Madison campus, they are limited to a small number of our actual student body of over 3000 students. I hope that recent events help to enforce the idea with our students that violence is not the answer to dealing with arguments or disagreements.

I would ask that you have a conversation with your child about social media and the impact it has on others. Please encourage your child to bring any information to the Madison administration if they feel that an incident could take place at school. We will act on every tip we receive and keep the source confidential if possible. The Madison administration can only help our students if we are aware of a potential situation. We want to make sure that every student can come to school and feel safe while at Madison, this only happens by working together.

In every case of a physical confrontation between students, the Madison administration has acted quickly and fairly. We strive to be consistent with consequences based upon the evidence we are able to collect. We assess a variety of consequences for students ranging from in-school suspension (ISS), off-campus suspension (OSS), and District alternative education placement (DAEP). Each situation is handled on a case-by-case basis, with the safety of all students being a top consideration.

We have many students who come to Madison because of the great programs we offer. In addition to our well known Agriculture program, we have students who excel in the areas of fine arts, athletics, culinary arts, health occupations, speech and debate just to

name a few. We have students who represent our campus in many different ways and do this with class, pride, and distinction. We have an all-state choir member, bbq cook-off champions, San Antonio tourism awards in culinary arts, regional qualifiers in bowling, orchestra, band, and more.

When I came to Madison two years ago I thought I knew all of the great things our kids were involved in, but I was shocked to see all that I did not know about. Madison is a special place to me and I take great pride in the successes of our students. On the same token, I take it very personally when someone chooses to make Madison appear as a less than desirable place to go to school. I celebrate our students whenever possible and will always speak about the great things that are happening at Madison. It is unfair to generalize the Madison student body without truly knowing our students. I am here to support every student in his or her educational journey and I will work with you as a parent in any way possible to make your child's time at Madison positive.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you should have any questions, comments, or concerns. [szimme@neisd.net](mailto:szimme@neisd.net) or (210) 356-1400.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Zimmerman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Zimmerman

Principal  
James Madison High School