



April 30, 2019

Dear H-F School Community:

We are reaching out to follow up on the events that have occurred over the last couple of days. The poor decisions of a small group of students have created enormous upheaval and hurt within our school and community. These actions have touched each of us deeply, and we will continue to work together in order to begin the process of healing as a school and community. It is important to provide our students with the opportunity to share with us their thoughts, ideas and questions. As we move forward through this process, our students' voices and participation are a crucial component in order to ensure that this experience makes us stronger. We are also in the process of developing an opportunity to meet with our parents and community.

To update you on immediate happenings:

- Early this morning, we aired a special message to our students via VTV — you can watch it at this website: <https://bit.ly/2V71SfU>
- Around noon today, approximately 1,000 students choose to participate in a walkout around campus. We would like to applaud our students and staff members who participated. Our students were amazing and conducted themselves in a very peaceful and orderly manner.
- Tomorrow, we will be meeting with all students during their English classes for an interactive conversation.
- The schedule for Wednesday has been adjusted to a 50-min. period day to accommodate this (Thursday will be a Block 2 day, and Friday will be a Block 3 day).

Longer term, our new strategic plan — developed by our school community last fall — represents a starting point that includes diversity and cultural competency training for all staff members and students. If we expect excellence from our students, we must ensure that we provide our students and families with the crucial knowledge about our shared history in order to create informed citizens.

As we move forward, these events demand from us a broader opportunity of reflection, examination and action related to our academic and social-emotional curriculum and our core values at H-F.

Please know that we understand your frustration that the school district cannot legally share specific information related to student discipline, but do know that the type of behavior these students displayed is not condoned by the school, and that we are doing everything possible to ensure that these students understand the ramifications of their actions and that appropriate consequences are received.

We are thankful to the many individuals who have reached out to us and shared their thoughts, feelings and volunteered their support and services to assist our school community as we begin building a pathway forward. The diversity of our communities represents our greatest strength and will be the catalyst that brings us together.

We are committed to providing an environment in which our students feel respected and safe. If you have any questions, concerns or need support, please contact us at 708-335-5500, vmansfield@hf233.org or 708-335-5540, janderson@hf233.org. Please have patience as we have many messages and phone calls and we are working diligently to respond to them as expeditiously as we can.

Sincerely,

Dr. Von Mansfield, Superintendent and Dr. Jerry Lee Anderson, Principal