

Triscia Hochstatter Principal
Sheila Kries Assistant Principal
Jake Long Assistant Principal
Kay White Assistant Principal

James Yonko CTE Director
Loren Sandhop Athletic Director
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Brandon Byers Digital Learning Center



TOGETHER, WE ASPIRE • BELIEVE • CONNECT SO EACH STUDENT HAS LIFE-LONG SUCCESS.

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November 24, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We want to inform you about student demonstrations that occurred at Moses Lake High School this morning in an effort to raise awareness about sexual harassment and perceived lack of consequences. An estimated 100 students began the demonstration at 7:45 am and convened outside the school this morning. The demonstrations were peaceful and organized, and all occurred without incident.

Prior to these activities, administrators were in communication with student organizers to help ensure students could lend their voices to the discussion safely and respectfully. However, these events were not school-sponsored. Rather, they were student-led. Our focus remained not on preventing or punishing student involvement in demonstrations, but on ensuring the safety and supervision of all students, whether they chose to participate in demonstrations or remain in class. Students were informed that participating in civil and peaceful protests would not result in disciplinary action, however, students would be marked absent. (Accruing absences may subsequently result in truancy consequences.) Additionally, our staff was encouraged to allow students to make up any work they may miss as a result of this peaceful protest.

Please know that at Moses Lake High School and in the Moses Lake School District, we take all allegations of violence, sexual harassment, and misconduct very seriously. **There is no place for sexual assault or harassment, especially on our school's campus.** We cannot go into any details about any of the specific allegations raised by students, but please know that our administration is focused on ensuring that any acts of violence against a student which includes sexual harassment and assault, are not tolerated, and dealt with appropriately, as quickly as possible. **For the safety and privacy of all parties involved, disciplinary actions and consequences resulting from thorough investigation remain confidential.**

Our mission is to ensure a safe environment for all students. We want to take this opportunity to remind our students and our community that any incident of harassment should be reported as quickly as possible so a thorough investigation can be conducted.

Reports can be made:

- directly to any staff, including but not limited to teachers and administrators
- anonymously to our administration through the [STOPit app](#)
- reported directly to local law enforcement
- submitted via policy outlined in the [student handbook](#)

When an incident is reported, investigations begin immediately. Any incident reported to school personnel involving an assault or crime is forwarded to local law enforcement. It is important to note that incidents reported directly to law enforcement and/or occur off-campus or outside of school hours, are not always reported to school administration.

We want to thank our students for making the commitment to a **peaceful** protest while exercising their right to express themselves. Events such as these bring opportunities for all involved to define their actions in such a way to have meaningful impact that promotes discussion and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Triscia Hochstatter".

Triscia Hochstatter
Principal