

Schoolwide Announcement Follow up

Warrior families,

True and lasting learning takes root when education is supported by strong, meaningful partnerships between schools and families. When we work together, we create a powerful foundation for our children's growth—one that extends beyond the classroom and into daily life. As part of the state-required Language Arts curriculum in 8th grade, students study narrative texts. While not mandated, Woodside has traditionally used this unit as an opportunity to read *Night*, a powerful memoir reflecting on the Holocaust with hopes to foster meaningful conversations with students about the consequences of hatred, bigotry, and the importance of empathy.

Concerns were raised regarding a poster related to this unit up in one classroom. Upon review, it was found to be entirely inappropriate, offensive and unacceptable. As a result, it was immediately removed.

Out of deep care for our students and families—and in the spirit of our partnership with you in your child's education—we want to share the following announcement that was read to ALL Woodside staff and students in school yesterday:

As part of our 8th-grade learning, students study the Holocaust so we can better understand how dangerous hatred can be—and why kindness and empathy matter so much.

Recently, a poster went up in one of our classrooms that included inaccurate and inappropriate information about Adolf Hitler which included a swastika. It wasn't okay, and as soon as school leaders found out, it was taken down. The poster was inappropriate and offensive.

We want you to know this: if you ever see or hear something at Woodside that makes you feel uncomfortable, hurt, or unsafe—please talk to an administrator or a trusted adult. Our doors are always open, and we mean that.

And for our staff—that same message is for you, too. If something doesn't sit right with you, please come see us. We're here to listen, support, and work through things together.

Thanks for always being a part of what makes Woodside STRONG.

We're sharing this with you not only to inform, but also in the hope that it inspires continued, thoughtful conversations at home—conversations that help deepen your child's understanding and strengthen their ability to think critically, empathize with others, and navigate the world with kindness, understanding and respect.

Thank you for your continued trust and support,

Stephen Clark, Ph.D., Principal

Woodside Middle School

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