

Dear **Cardinal** Staff and Families,

As always, the district staff have been sending important information regarding timely topics such as health (Battling Bed Bugs, Learning to Lose Lice --on its way.) Today, I am sending information regarding an increase in interactions that tear down rather than **build our Cardinal family**.

Communication matters. Tik Tok, Instagram, written letters, face-to-face interactions, and texting are a few ways our world communicates. Each of these have the ability to deliver a positive message. However, lately our society, our community and our school district as a whole have been experiencing an increased volume of negative, threatening, and disrespectful communications. These communications have taken place on and off campus and have a direct and detrimental impact on students, staff, and families.

My days as a Cardinal are limited and each day matters to me. Until I am walking down my next path, it is my responsibility to do all I can to create a **safe, healthy and happy** community. I find myself reflecting on all the individuals (**students and adults**) who stand up for what is moral and ethical or stand up when someone harms another person in a verbal or physical manner. These individuals **lift the human spirit** rather than break it. As individuals and collective groups, *we get what we tolerate*. If all of us are not standing up for one another, what are we standing for?

Words matter. Choosing what we **write or say** and how we **deliver our message** impacts our own personal reputation, the reputations of others, and the hurtful or fearful feelings experienced by those within the situation.

How we behave matters, and behavior is communication. When individuals physically strike others, vandalize or tamper with personal property, bring illegal substances and weapons to school, etc. a message is being communicated. There will be consequences for such messages. With this shared, please know that the administration is **unable** to address what they don't know.

Caring for one another matters. In recent newsletters, I have shared the "See something. Say something." message for which our counselors advocate. This guidance applies to incidents outside of the school day or off campus when the incident disrupts the learning environment.

Ownership matters. As Cardinals, it is our responsibility to take ownership for our behaviors. Solving problems by speaking directly to the source, seeking factual information, signing our name by the words we write, and standing up for one another demonstrates respect and pride in our school and community as a whole.

Our staff matters. They are our greatest asset, and we want them to stay.

Cardinal pride matters. Thank you for considering your part in it.

Take care,

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#theCARDINALway