

WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL

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October 3, 2021

Dear Walter Johnson Community,

I was deeply troubled and disheartened to learn this morning that our school had been vandalized with graffiti that included references to white supremacy and other hate speech. Defacing our school with graffiti is bad enough, but symbols of hate speech are harmful and unsettling for many in our community. We are very mindful of how such actions may evoke fear and anger and we have worked quickly to cover the images. I appreciate our community members who alerted me and thank our staff who took swift action to have the graffiti removed.

We are a wonderfully diverse community and we must continue to take a stand against acts of hate, hateful and harmful rhetoric. These actions will not be tolerated and any students involved will receive disciplinary consequences in alignment with the student Code of Conduct in MCPS. It should be noted that recent Board of Education actions specifically include prohibition of hate symbols and language in policy [ACA](#) and are covered in the [MCPS Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities](#) and [Student Code of Conduct in MCPS](#).

As always, I appreciate your support as we strive to build a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment where all students can thrive. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Baker
Principal