## HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear High Point Community,

Similar to our larger world, nation and state, High Point is currently facing profoundly difficult challenges that are having an impact on our school community. High Point Regional High School is aware of student reports of homophobic, transphobic, anti-Semitic, and racist comments made by students, all of which we are addressing and attempting to remedy. Such behavior is never acceptable and can never be tolerated -- High Point believes in the dignity of every student, staff member and community member.

We recognize that there are divisive, destructive, and hateful elements in the broader global community impacting our students. We also recognize the responsibility that schools and families have in educating our students on how to treat each other respectfully and ensure a safe school community for all. We want the High Point family to reflect and respect *all its members*; we are responsible for ensuring that every student is safe and affirmed at school.

We can assure our community that when these incidents are reported they are fully investigated by the administration under the <u>Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy</u>. Consequences for behavior that is contrary to this policy or to the wellbeing and dignity of all students, will be decisive and firm, in our efforts to maintain a safe and affirming educational environment. We encourage students to immediately report any incidents of this nature to school administration including as many specific details as possible. While student expression, within reasonably established guidelines, MUST and WILL BE respected, even championed; inflammatory, derogatory, or provocative language and actions that harm others, that denigrates our student and community culture and creates an insecure environment, are not accepted and will be appropriately confronted.

We will continue to work together on respecting and valuing all members of the HPRHS community. We are working with student leaders and staff to gather feedback on improvements to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. We will collaboratively develop short term and long term objectives to ensure the safety and support of all regardless of racial, gender, sexual, religious, or ethnic identity. We recognize that this work may create difficult conversations that we need to be able to have as a community, but we need your help at home as well. We wanted to make you aware of the very serious student reports that have been made so you can also have a dialogue with your child at home and discuss with them the importance of respect within our educational community.

We wanted to provide families with additional resources: High Point Counseling Resources

We will put in the important work to ensure all of our young people continue to learn in a school community that is safe and supportive. We will not let differences, disagreements, or viewpoints be divisive in our community, but instead look at it as an opportunity to learn more about each other and grow. We have a tremendous student culture and our high expectations will continue to be upheld. Respect is not an aspiration, it is an absolute must in our school community.

Sincerely, Jonathan Tallamy Principal, HPRHS