

W. Kresse

9.13.19

PA Address to Students

Good Morning CHS Students:

Yesterday we were notified that a former City Honors teacher, Mr. Hingston, was arrested. I know that this morning finds you with a swirl of emotions, confusion and hurt. Many of you feel betrayed at this moment. We trust that the adults who work in our schools will have the kids' best interest in mind and that school is one of the safest places we can be. Everyone here in our City Honors Community is feeling emotional about this right now.

While I am not permitted to discuss this matter as the law enforcement investigation continues, there are a few things that I can say. Many of you may have heard rumors about this matter for months, rumors that we could not comment on or respond to in any way. You need to know that once law enforcement is called to investigate, the school and school district step out of the investigation and allow law enforcement to do their work.

At the start of each school year, we hold class meetings, just as we did a few days ago. At these meetings, I always challenge you to be more than an average student your age, not just in your studies but in being leaders. I encourage you to speak out when someone else is not being treated well. I ask you to look out for your classmates when other students your age might be silent. I want you to know that we have some very courageous young people in our school who did just this. We have adults who are to be commended for listening and taking students seriously. I also want you to know that no student should second guess themselves. We are proud of you.

Last night I sent a letter home to all parents providing them with information and helpful telephone numbers. Every member of our staff also received this information. If you ever feel you have been a victim of abuse, you should talk to your parents, your school counselor, our Student Support Team Staff or an administrator. There are people here to listen and support you in your time of need.

If you need someone to talk to now, we have additional counselors with us in the LGI Room for the next few days. Please stop down to the LGI Room at any time you feel the need to take advantage of these counselors. Teachers please feel free to give students a pass if they express the need to access this support. They will be sent back to class with a pass as well. In the months and years to come, our Student Support Team staff, counselors and administrators are always there for you.

My administrative team and I have dedicated our lives to providing you the best education possible and sending you off to a great life after City Honors. However, our biggest job is to ensure that you are safe and cared for while you are with us. I have always hoped that through energy and vigilance, I can protect all 1100 of you at all times. Be sure that there is not a day when we will ever stop working to protect you, and that when danger finds its way to your doorstep, we will respond swiftly and strongly as we did in this case.