



## Collinsville Community Unit School District 10

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September 10, 2020

Kahok Families:

The 2020-2021 school year has brought about numerous changes regarding the delivery of instruction teachers utilize and the platform in which students receive the instruction. As our district adjusts to a new normal, we would like to address social media issues and privacy.

Our district will not engage in propagating social media posts, rants, negativity or false information. We prefer to communicate directly with parents/guardians, students, staff and community members regarding what our district is doing, how it is understood and how it can be improved.

One thing is paramount: we will NOT jeopardize confidentiality of students and/or staff. We will adhere to and be guided by privacy laws that pertain to schools and the workplace. We will protect students and their rights.

In addition, we will not tolerate bullying or racism. We will continue important work to cultivate a culture and environment that is welcoming to everyone. We realize that we have work to do and we acknowledge the importance of that work.

Last January, when we began our Diversity and Equity initiative, we set out to identify areas where our school family could improve cultural awareness, combat racism, employ a more diverse faculty and staff, establish a future teachers club and award scholarships to minority students who choose education as a career.

This effort involves many moving pieces, and the next step is to distribute surveys to families and students the week of September 21st. The district is seeking opinions and information directly from our stakeholders to establish a plan moving forward and initiate change which aligns with our District Vision: "Unit 10 is committed to world-class excellence through a culture of acceptance, collaboration and achievement."

During this process, situations will arise that are teachable moments for our students. We take these matters seriously and address them. Sometimes these situations involve both education

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and discipline. Student discipline is a confidential matter between a student, their family and the school. We will never comment on or disclose details related to student discipline - even though public perception may be misinformed and incorrect.

Our lack of comment, or situations where we cite privacy laws, should not be construed as a failure to address an issue. Every student, family and staff member has an expectation of information privacy and confidentiality, which we are legally and ethically bound to respect.

Our current situation requires schools to rely heavily on remote learning, presenting new challenges for privacy. Traditional student data, such as personal information, grades and medical records, are protected; as well as things created or generated by teachers or students using technology, such as email, work performed using an educational app or program, or anything by or about a student in a hybrid or blended educational setting.

Communication between students and teachers, or students and other students, is not public information. As we educate students in the unique circumstances of a pandemic, we are working to better inform them and their families about behavior expectations in this new context.

Collinsville CUSD #10 invites families with questions or concerns to address them directly by contacting a teacher, counselor, social worker, principal or district administrator. Social media is not an effective platform for reporting or solving problems. We look forward to working with our families and communities in the months and years ahead to educate students in a positive, supportive and nurturing environment.

Mark B. Skertich Ed.D.  
Superintendent