



news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

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For Immediate Release

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Statement from Pittsburgh Public Schools on Defacing of School District Property

PITTSBURGH, October 26, 2023 – The Pittsburgh Public Schools is committed to ensuring all students attend safe and supportive school environments. Our school communities, rich with diversity, welcome all students, regardless of race, religion, class, culture, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. This morning, a message written in graffiti on the premises of Pittsburgh Allderdice High School threatens our core belief that education begins with a safe and healthy learning environment.

We believe every student has the right to attend school without fearing discrimination and intimidation. We will not tolerate acts threatening our core principles of respect, inclusivity, and kindness. We are grateful to our facilities team for immediately covering the graffiti, which has now been removed entirely from the facility. We are working closely with law enforcement to ensure appropriate action is taken regarding the defacing of school district property.

As the City of Pittsburgh prepares to mark the five-year anniversary of the tragedy that occurred at the Tree of Life Synagogue, we must stand together to condemn any language that seeks to divide our community or plant seeds of hate. This year's anniversary has added significance following the jury's conviction of the perpetrator of this horrific event earlier this year. Together, we can ensure all students attend spaces where they feel safe, respected, and valued.

Pittsburgh Allderdice school leaders, counselors, and support staff are available to help students struggling with the emotions stirred by today's incident. We also understand that current world events may inevitably impact students. We want families across our District to know that we care about the wellness of all students. School staff are available to provide support to any student who needs it.

Tomorrow, schools across the District will participate in a moment of silence at 9:45 AM to honor the eleven victims of the Tree of Life tragedy, all victims of gun violence, and to call for peace and unity among all.

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