



San Clemente High School

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September 20, 2019

Dear Lincoln and San Clemente High School Communities:

As the Principal of San Clemente High School, I, along with my administrative team, deeply regret the pain caused to both the individual students affected and the Lincoln High School community as a whole and extend our sincerest apologies. Over the past week, we have collected statements from Lincoln High School and San Clemente High School students, parents, and personnel; the Orange County Sheriff's Department; and the Contemporary Services Corporation (CSC security team), regarding the allegations of the events at last Friday night's football game. In addition, we reviewed eight hours of video captured during the game from multiple cameras throughout the stadium. We have worked collaboratively with Lincoln High School's Principal Stephanie Brown to review the statements of the Lincoln High School community including students, parents, alumni and staff and it is evident from these testimonials that the Lincoln High School students and fans felt unwelcome on our campus. Several students from Lincoln High School stated that they were called racial slurs in the restroom and around the snack bar area; based on our extensive investigation, we were able to confirm that two individuals in the restroom used a racial epithet when addressing a Lincoln High School student. In addition, statements we collected confirmed that derogatory words were heard in our bleachers.

As a school and as a district, we do not tolerate racist or hateful rhetoric and actions that target any group or person. While we strive to be a diverse and welcoming school community, our own students have told us that we have work to do. With their leadership, we will use this opportunity to listen, explore, reflect and act within our school community to ensure that our words and actions are inclusive and supportive of every race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, and ability.

Students from San Clemente and Lincoln will participate in a Restorative Circle and a one-day workshop facilitated by the Anti-Defamation League to address bias, bullying and allyship. The goal of this joint collaboration is to engage in conversations about how to lead and respond to bias. Additionally, San Clemente High School will be doing ongoing work with the Anti-Defamation League to provide meaningful and comprehensive resources, trainings, and support to address implicit bias and hate speech. We will incorporate lessons that help educate students and staff on the history and current reality of prejudice and racism in our country. Our goal is that our school is a welcoming and inclusive place for every single person who walks on our campus, whether they be a student or a visitor.

As we move forward together in partnership with Principal Brown, I am hopeful that our community will use this opportunity to learn and grow.

Sincerely,

Chris Carter
Principal, San Clemente High School