

On May 5, 2021, at 5:03 PM, Amanda Overly <aoverly@everettsd.org> wrote:

Dear Seagulls,

I am writing with an update about our school's social media issues. Our school community is hurting. We have recently suffered some events that have rocked us as a school, and brought up feelings that have persisted in this community for years.

One event, the public posting of a list of sophomore girls, has been handled and the students responsible for creating the list, some months ago, have received consequences. They have taken responsibility for their actions, understand the harm done, and hope to move forward together in learning this important lesson.

The unrelated list, of senior girls, was referred to law enforcement. The student that has been accused on social media of doing this has NOT been charged by police for creating this list. **Police state there is little evidence that this student did this**, and quite a bit of evidence suggesting someone else did this. This accused student and friends should be left alone while the school continues to investigate and follow up on new information as it comes in.

Additionally, there was a transphobic and unacceptable video that was posted, which while hateful and offensive, was not directly related to specific students in our school, like the other two events. We are strongly committed to supporting our diverse student community, and have spoken to families involved and discussed the impact of the video on our community.

We acknowledge that girls and members of our LGBTQ+ community have been harmed and may still continue to experience trauma from these events. We remain committed to standing with you, offering support and safety. If you want to talk to administration personally, to discuss plans of support, please reach out. We are encouraged by the support shown for these students during in-person classes this week by both students and staff.

However, it is very important that our students realize that lashing out at people online is not the way to help our society solve social justice issues such as sexism, homophobia, and racism. **Meaningful dialogue** that includes all voices is the way to make systemic changes. Threatening or defaming people online is not OK. Doing so without proof is dangerous.

Students, **you are the future**. The world will be what you make it. You are empowered to lead and we encourage you to do so. Speak out for what is right without commenting on situations you don't have the facts on. Listen to other perspectives. Meet with your teachers or administrators about what changes you want to see in your school. Join a social justice club. Write your government officials for changes in laws that you believe are needed. These things help us effect true change. I am strongly committed to social justice and to giving students the appropriate forum to be positive activists.

Our young people are a product of the world we are living in. These problems are not new. These problems are not unique to Everett High School. **They are problems that I, as the new Principal, am willing to address**. I need parent and student cooperation. We are looking into social media and cyber safety training as a way to help our students, staff and families recognize the dangers of social media and the ways that we can protect ourselves and our kids. In the meantime, please encourage your student to use the following acronym when posting online: [T.H.I.N.K.](#) Help us teach students that

before posting anything, to THINK! Is it true? Is it helpful? Is it inspiring? Is it necessary? Is it kind? If the post doesn't fit the acronym, don't post it!

Thank you and be kind.

Principal Overly