



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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**Mark Secaur, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(631) 382-2006

December 6, 2023

Dear Smithtown School Community,

Sadly, we have received word of another incident involving anti-semitic graffiti. Late this morning, it was reported that a swastika was found on a cafeteria table at Smithtown High School West. As we have stated in the past, it is important for our school community to be made aware of such incidents and work collaboratively to oppose hate whenever it occurs. Anti-semitism, or any form of hatred, has no place in our schools or community and will not be tolerated.

Once aware of this incident, the district immediately notified the Suffolk County Police Department. Officers from the 4th Precinct arrived promptly, took a report, and a thorough investigation will take place. Should we identify the person responsible for this incident, strict disciplinary action will ensue and criminal charges will be recommended. Given the location of the table, and reason to believe the incident took place very recently, we are optimistic that we can identify the responsible party and hold them accountable.

As I have stated in past communications, we have a moral and legal obligation to provide a safe, supportive environment for all of our students. This obligation is also outlined in one of this year's Board of Education goals, which states:

*"... the Board will continue its commitment to provide equitable opportunities and resources so that all students feel that they are welcome, they belong, and they are supported in every school and success in this work will be built upon a foundation of respect, diversity, equity, inclusion, access and opportunity."*

Once again, we must all reflect on the role we play in teaching our children and each other not to hate and we implore you to be partners with us in this work. The district is still in the process of evaluating our approach to this work and discussing what else should be done. [THIS](#) document reflects our current approach to this work in the district and we anticipate being able to share additional details in the near future.

Please speak with your children about the seriousness and likely consequences for such acts, and to encourage them to make good decisions that respect every student's right to attend school in a safe and supportive environment. With your cooperation and collaboration, we can help create the environment we all want for our children to thrive.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.  
Superintendent