



SUPERINTENDENT - **STACEY L. DENEWITH-FICI**

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT - **NEIL CASSABON**

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM - **KARA BEAL**

March 22, 2023

Dear Warren Woods Families,

I am writing to you today to address the recent physical altercations that have occurred at our secondary schools. As the superintendent, it is my responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, and I make this a top priority.

Over the past couple months, we have seen an increased number of altercations on our campuses, and I want to assure you that we take these incidents very seriously. While students have been addressed multiple times regarding these types of incidents, I want to take this opportunity to ensure parents have accurate information. Those involved in physical violence face severe consequences and those who encourage the behavior will also be disciplined.

In addition to school discipline which includes suspension or permanent expulsion, we also impose criminal consequences. With the support of our School Resource Officer, we charge students who engage in these behaviors with disorderly conduct which is a misdemeanor. Unlike a ticket for fighting which is a civil infraction, the disorderly conduct charge requires the student to explain their actions to a judge which can result in a warning, probation, fine or jail. Students who are caught recording these incidents will also be disciplined for inciting and encouraging this negative behavior. Moving forward, we will also be implementing a new disciplinary policy that includes mandatory anger management counseling for those involved in fights. As a District, we want you to know that students will be held accountable for their behavior while in our care and, as our partners, parents need to know and support these expectations and consequences.

I understand that these incidents can be alarming and concerning for students and parents, and I want to reassure you that we are doing everything in our power to ensure that our students are safe. We are also working with our students and staff to promote a culture of dignity and understanding, where conflicts are resolved in a peaceful and constructive manner. We need families to reinforce the serious ramifications of this type of inappropriate behavior.

I encourage you to speak with your child about the importance of treating others with dignity and seeking help from a trusted adult if they are ever involved in a conflict. Our school counselors, social workers and other staff are available to provide support and guidance to any students who may be struggling with these issues, but students need to speak to an adult so we can support a resolution.

During times of turmoil, it is often easy to lose sight of all the students who are acting responsibly and who are excelling in and out of the classroom. Within the last month, our music programs have received the highest ratings possible at their festivals competitions, in addition to very successful winter sports seasons, several athletes have earned All-State honors for their successes, students in CTE programs showcased their talents in statewide competitions, and the Warren Woods Drama Club will be putting on [Disney's Newsies](#) this weekend at the Warren Woods Middle School Auditorium. There are over 1800 students in our secondary schools doing great things; unfortunately, our attention has been focused on a small handful of students these last couple weeks.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work to create a safe and positive learning environment for all students.

Sincerely,

Stacey Denewith-Fici  
Superintendent