

NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

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January 7, 2021

Dear NHS Families,

I, like you, watched in horror yesterday as our democratic process and our nation's Capitol Building were attacked in an attempted insurrection. I am writing to provide a sense of the support we are offering our students to help process these horrific events. As young adults, our students have strong feelings and emotions that may need to be unpacked, processed and supported, and it is our job to support them through this process in a safe way.

Early this morning, our staff had an emergency staff meeting to discuss the supports and resources that were necessary to do this. Together, we decided to take the following steps:

- All classes began with a unified message from our educators today. Educators unequivocally denounced the attempted insurrection and riots, allowed time and space for students to speak, acknowledged any feelings, offered avenues for support for students, and identified any student who may be in need of additional support.
- All social studies classes paused pre-planned lessons during today and tomorrow's cycle to allow for extended, facilitated discussion about these events in relationship to civil rights, civics, government, and the democratic process.
- I delivered a message to our students on today's morning news explaining these steps, telling them I love them, and letting them know that every single adult in this building is there to support them with whatever they may be feeling. I explained that yesterday's events were traumatic on top of an already traumatic time in our students' lives, and that they further highlighted the inequities that exist in our society.
- We will organize a structured, adult-facilitated time, for students who are interested, to talk in the coming days in a group format.

I have included links and attachments to some resources that we have used at NHS that, as guardians, you may find helpful when discussing the Capitol riots and attempted insurrection with your student. Thank you for your continued support of your student and our school community, especially during these difficult times.

Best,

Hugh T. Galligan, Ed.D.
Principal
Norwood High School

Additional Support Links:

https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/help-students-connect-reflect-year?fbclid=IwAR2U5_xUg5-blXMPcRtjqs0nCj52e4jUQhqEq7ob4jRZLPOAN4NltAa4G4Q

https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/when-bad-things-are-happening?fbclid=IwAR2jnaA1rM8jXLHAXqPTthfGj_iT70oqYPxXa0FnnsDpmx0g0DvrmEK35P4

<https://sharemylesson.com/democracy?spMailingID=44221414&spUserID=Mzg3ODkwNTQ4MjMyS0&spJobID=1920491330&spReportId=MTkyMDQ5MTMzMAS2>

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity-and-social-justice/social-justice/supporting-marginalized-students-in-the-context-of-the-2020-election-tips-for-educators>

<https://www.nasponline.org/about-school-psychology/media-room/press-releases/nasp-guidance-for-ensuring-student-well-being-in-the-context-of-the-2020-election>