



NORMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Scott Beck

Principal

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November 18, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

You may be aware of considerable social media activity of late regarding disturbing allegations about Norman High School. While we do not typically consume your time with rumors circulated on social media, we feel we must in this circumstance because of the nature of these allegations. We also want to make you aware of a protest that we understand will be held in front of NHS on November 24.

We are very restricted by federal law in what we can share regarding the allegations being made on social media. What we can tell you is that an alleged rape occurred off our school campus approximately two months ago involving two students. NHS took the strongest disciplinary action against the alleged assailant permitted by Oklahoma law and we also have been fully cooperating with the Norman Police Department, which is still conducting an investigation. Despite what rumors on social media may indicate, we have not - and would never - discipline a victim for being a victim.

Groups indicating they wish to bring awareness and advocacy for victims of sexual assault are organizing the Nov. 24 protest. The staff of NHS also believe we must do everything we can to protect and advocate for the safety and well being of our students but we did want to clarify for parents that the Nov. 24 protest is not being organized by NHS. However, we support our students' First Amendment rights to exercise free speech and participate in peaceful demonstration and, as such, will not prevent any students from participating in the protest if their parents wish them to participate. We also pledge to arrange for a police and administrative presence outside of the school to assist with safety on Nov. 24.

Again, while staff and I are restricted by federal law from providing information related to specific students' actions and behavior, we want to assure all our parents that we continue to monitor behavior both in and outside of school that impact students' safety and we continue to respond quickly and decisively whenever we are provided facts and information indicating any student is in danger or has been harmed in any way.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or concerns, and I will be pleased to address them within the parameters of law.

Sincerely,

Scott Beck, Principal
Norman High School