



SACRAMENTO CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday, September 22, 2017

Dear Dragon Parents,

It has been a great start to the 2017-2018 school year and we're proud of the progress that has already been made by our scholars. Members of the Class of 2018 have earned acceptance letters to college and we're gearing up for Spirit Week next week and Midterms on October 3rd and 4th.

While our staff has been focusing on your kids, we've continued to receive media attention following our September 15th football game. The game was held at Hughes Stadium on the Sacramento City College campus. During the game, three non-Sac High students got into a fight on our side of the bleachers. A Los Rios Police Officer unnecessarily pepper sprayed the crowd after the situation had been handled by Sac High administration, teachers, and members of our own contracted security team. I was impressed by the restraint and resolve of our students, fans, and staff in the face of adversity. Several of you played a role in supporting those who were there and I appreciate your care and concern.

Unfortunately, Sac High continues to receive media attention following the incident, despite our attempts to make it clear that none of the involved parties go to or are affiliated with Sac High. Our focus after the game turned toward preparing for the school week ahead and ensuring a thorough investigation was done related to the Los Rios Police Officer who indiscriminately pepper-sprayed students, parents, and fans, including young children.

Early this week, I spoke with the Principal at Kennedy High School. He expressed his concerns about safety at the upcoming Sac High vs. Kennedy game but never shared any issues concerning our students, our student-athletes, or our school. It was on Wednesday the Kennedy principal notified me of their school's decision to forfeit the game. He explained that there were ongoing concerns about safety but never mentioned Sac High students. At no time did I or anyone in the St. HOPE administration communicate with the Sacramento Police Department this week. We also never heard anything from the Sacramento City Unified School District as well.

Safety is my top priority and we will continue to ensure our students are safe. We also will continue focusing on the investigation regarding the actions of the individual Los Rios officer so that you and all Sac High fans can cheer on the Dragons without fear of being unnecessarily profiled or met with unfounded aggression by the police.

There is likely going to be ongoing coverage this weekend. Please support us by continuing to focus on your scholar and their effort to climb the mountain to and through college. Our theme this year is "Rise," and our staff will continue to focus on learning and pushing our scholars to rise to their highest potential. Should the media attempt to talk your or your students, please direct them to info@sachigh.org or have them call me at (916) 277-6200.

Rise,

Shannon Wheatley
Principal, Sac High