



**HERITAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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September 28, 2021

Dear Livingston Public Schools Community:

We are in receipt of a video that depicts a troubling student interaction on a Livingston Public Schools bus. Additionally, we have been informed that the video is circulating widely around the community of Livingston. We saw the video, and our administrators reacted to the situation swiftly and deliberately since that time. Our primary goal has been to effectively respond to the behavior that happened on the bus, and to address the individuals and families involved. In addition to the immediate actions taken, we plan to continue to work with all of our students to diminish the likelihood that similar situations occur in the future.

Since students are shown in the video, we are required to handle our response to the incident privately with the individuals and their families. As a result, we will not be addressing this specific matter publicly. However, we will continue to actively promote respect, kindness, and acceptance with all of our students and families. Clear messaging and education on these topics and issues remain a high priority for the Livingston Public Schools.

We appreciate all of those individuals who shared the video with the school district. If any member of our community receives a video like this, the appropriate thing to do is to immediately inform the school, and if possible, send a copy of the video to us. We strongly request that, in the future, members of our community refrain from circulating videos like this one to others who are not associated with it, nor have a role in addressing the incident a video depicts. There is nothing productive that comes from sharing a video like this with people not involved with the situation. Circulating the video widely only serves to compromise the privacy of those involved, and potentially re-victimizes students who may have already suffered emotional or physical pain and embarrassment as a victim. We appreciate your understanding that videos like this depict a private matter, and should not be shared broadly.

As we continue the important work of ensuring our schools are safe and welcoming places for all, we appreciate your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Matthew J. Block.

Matthew J. Block  
Superintendent of Schools

Handwritten signature of Shawn Kelly.

Shawn Kelly  
Principal, Heritage Middle School