



January 6, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to you to condemn in the strongest possible way a petition that was shown to students during Arundel High School's Pride Period today.

During the lunch period today, school administrators were made aware of a petition that asks students to "join" a movement based on offensive and degrading stereotypes of African-Americans. The school's administration learned of the petition and immediately launched an aggressive investigation that has identified several students who are believed to be involved. At least two students signed the petition.

I am shocked, dismayed, and quite frankly, angered that such a piece of material would be produced, much less appear in one of our schools. It is unconscionable to me how anyone could believe this material is anything but horrifying, and it has absolutely no place in our schools or school system.

Arundel High School's administration has taken – and will continue to – take the strongest possible actions with regard to any student found to be involved in this matter. I urge you to talk to your child this evening and to have an open and honest dialogue about this matter and the issues it brings forth.

I am incredibly proud of the work that Arundel High School has done in its community and around the world. Its Global Citizenship and Community Development Signature Program and other initiatives have broadened the horizons for thousands of students and launched efforts that have made our county, state, nation, and world a better place.

We will not let this deter or undermine this good work. Under the capable leadership of Principal Gina Davenport, Arundel High School will undertake further hearty discussions about appreciation for our diversity beginning next week. Our Central Office personnel will assist in those efforts.

If, through the conversations you have with your child, you learn of information that could assist the school in its investigation into this matter, please contact the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Arlotto".

George Arlotto, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

GA/bm