

Dear Parents and Guardians,

By now, you have seen, read, and/or heard the media coverage of a Twitter account through which someone shared a number of disturbing videos of fights in and around Neptune High School as well in nearby communities. At first glance, the Twitter account makes it seem as if there has been a drastic increase in seriously violent events in a short period of time at the high school. In reality, the fights that were tweeted took place over at least a year's time. The students in those videos had already been identified, disciplined, and/or arrested. Many of the videos showed multiple angles of the same incident. Some of the recordings could not be confirmed as having taken place in Neptune. The Twitter account has been deactivated.

Although we can assure you that these incidents did not take place in the short period of time that the Twitter has been up and running, we also understand that the shock of seeing the videos has created a high level of concern in our community and especially among our parents and students. The vast majority of our students are well-behaved, polite, cooperative students who come to school every day and do the right thing. Not unlike other high schools, we deal with some students who are not compliant and who engage in negative activity. First, we would like to assure you that we take any and all fighting and acts of violence seriously. As always, we are working very closely with Neptune Township Police Department, staff, and students to provide increased supervision as well as proactive measures to address those students who are disruptive to the learning process. Secondly, effective immediately, we will do the following:

- Increase adult supervision during passing time, arrival, and dismissal
- Enlist student groups in creating school-wide peer support and encouragement
- Provide all safety officers training in de-escalation and restraint
- Provide teachers with additional training on when to refer students for drug screening
- Assign an additional safety officer
- Send any student who is involved in a seriously violent fight out of district for 45 days and permit reentry only after the student provides a discipline committee with clearance

It is our hope that the media coverage of the Twitter account does not overshadow the many wonderful things that go on every day at Neptune Township High School and in our school community and community at large. We encourage you to get involved, stay involved, and support our ongoing efforts to provide a positive learning environment for our students.

Feel free to email or call with additional questions.

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