



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
669 AVENUE A
BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY 07002

John J. Niesz
Superintendent

Tel. (201) 858-5817
Fax (201) 858-6289

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Dear Bayonne Community,

The Bayonne School District continues to take a strong stance against hate and violence of any kind. While we offer a multitude of support services and training to our students and staff, we have also begun a new approach. Recently, this month every single administrator - including myself - were assigned to the high school for a week of walking the halls, speaking to students, visiting lunches, and visiting classrooms. The program was so successful we are continuing it in all of our schools.

Over the past few weeks, I have been meeting with every Bayonne High School student leader. Approximately 75 students and myself, while having lunch, have been discussing how we can become a model for America in stopping hate. We all agree that fighting, name calling, and social media bullying have no place in our society. Real change takes bold actions and bold decisions - we embrace this challenge.

We are aware that, later today, there will be a nationwide release of a video of Memphis, Tennessee, Police Officers using excessive force in the death of Mr. Tyre Nichols. Our schools will offer crisis counseling to all of our students and employees as needed.

I would like to thank the Bayonne NAACP and the Bayonne Police Department for their continued strong partnership with the Bayonne School District. Furthermore, I would like to thank Mr. Donald Byrd, the Bayonne NAACP President, and Bayonne Police Department Sergeant Steve Rhodes for speaking to me today about coming to speak to our student leaders on Monday, January 30, 2023 about the Tyre Nichols tragedy and stopping hate.

Please have a safe and great weekend.

Sincerely,

John J. Niesz
Superintendent of Schools

"The Youth of Today. The Leaders of Tomorrow."