



ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Volcano Vista High School

Vickie C. Bannerman, Ed.D.
Principal

Raquel Reedy
Superintendent

Dear Volcano Vista Community,

We learned this week about a very disturbing photograph that was posted to Snapchat by a couple of our students. The picture was photo-shopped to look like a group of students in one of our classrooms wearing Klan hoods. The students who doctored the picture and posted it to social media said it was supposed to be a joke. Of course, it was in *no* way funny. In fact, I found it repugnant and hateful. Please know that the students involved have been appropriately and expeditiously disciplined.

At Volcano Vista High School, we expect *all* students to be treated with dignity and respect, and we deem unacceptable *all* acts of discrimination and harassment including but not limited to sexual, racial and religious. This is what we teach; this is what we live by.

You might want to talk to your child about this incident. Remind them to think twice about what they post to social media. They shouldn't use the platform to harass, tease or threaten others, and they should remember that everything they post leaves a "digital footprint" that can last forever – even in sites like Snapchat. Hateful, discriminatory or bullying messages and photographs may very well come back to haunt them as they apply for college and jobs.

On behalf of VVHS, I'd like to sincerely apologize to all who were hurt and offended by this unacceptable prank. If you have questions or concerns, I welcome you to contact me or a member of the Volcano Vista administration.

Sincerely,

Dr. B

Dr. Vickie C. Bannerman, Principal

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It's GREAT to be a HAWK!