



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(631) 382-2006

April 29, 2021

Dear Smithtown Community,

Discussions regarding diversity, equity and inclusion are important. The District considers our work to address issues related to these topics to be a moral imperative and essential to our efforts to meet the needs of all students. It is unfortunate that this work has become controversial, and given the proliferation of misinformation related to our efforts, we feel compelled to set the record straight.

The table below was designed to provide you with a visual representation of the false narratives that have been widely shared and our position on these matters.


False Narrative	Reality
The District adopted Critical Race Theory for 2020-2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District adopted a goal related to Equity and Inclusivity. It can be seen HERE. ● Critical race theory is an academic movement made up of civil-rights scholars and activists in the United States who seek to critically examine the law as it intersects with issues of race, and to challenge mainstream liberal approaches to racial justice. ● The District has not adopted a goal or a policy related to Critical Race Theory.
Equity teams are dangerous and districts that have them have been “captured.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work related to diversity, equity and inclusion has been deemed a priority for virtually every major educational organization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organizations that have made diversity, equity and inclusion a priority for educators. ● What are the benefits of equity work in Smithtown?
Students that are considered “white” are being severely targeted and all ethnicities are being taught to blame or judge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is simply untrue. Our goal is that every student feels included, a sense of belonging, dignity, and access to all of Smithtown’s offerings.
The District’s work related to diversity, equity and inclusion is part of a transition to socialism/Marxism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District does not endorse a political party let alone a political or economic model of governance. Our students are encouraged to think critically so they can evaluate evidence and come to their own conclusions. Students are encouraged to question and make independent judgments in Smithtown. Our democracy depends on well-informed citizens who can think critically, actively engage in dialogue about important issues, and apply high-level problem solving skills to make our world an ever-better place.
Our schools are failing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The District achieved a score of 4 (on a scale of 1-4) from the New York State Education Department for College, Career, and Civic Readiness, an indicator of how well the district has prepared its students for life beyond high school. ● The percentage of Smithtown students who enroll in 4 year colleges and

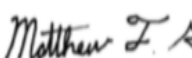
	<p>universities has climbed from 69% to 76% over the last five years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our high schools' graduation rate has held steady at 96% for the last five years. • Our high schools' Advanced Regents rate has climbed from 66% to 75% over the last five years. • The District's number of AP Scholars has climbed from 151 to 213 students over the last five years. • Our percentage of students with disabilities that earned a diploma has increased from 77% to 84% over the last five years. • Our percentage of students with disabilities that earned an Advanced Regents diploma has increased from 6% to 17% over the last five years.
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People are entitled to their opinions and political views, but we should be able to foster and promote an environment where contrary views can be discussed in a civil manner. It's not easy to talk about sensitive topics, but it is essential that we do just that. It is essential to listen and engage in these important conversations that will be necessary for us to meet the social, emotional and academic needs of all our students.


As always, we would like to sincerely thank all of you for your cooperation and understanding as we continue to teach our students the importance of civil discourse and analyzing different points of view. To quote our Social Studies Mission Statement, our hope is that... "students will use these tools to become more knowledgeable, empathetic, and informed citizens of Smithtown, the United States, and the rapidly changing world around them and will be better prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow."


Sincerely,


 Mark Secaur, Ed. D.
 Superintendent



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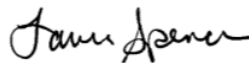

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