

September 15, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers and Staff,

Though students are not in our physical buildings, school is in session. I want to thank everyone for making the best of these difficult circumstances due to COVID 19.

The health crisis continues and there are hopeful signs of a downward trend in our region. There is, however, another crisis that is affecting us, even down to the local school level. It is with a heavy heart that I share that recently racial slurs were used during classes on Zoom.

**Let me be clear:** racial slurs, actions, overtones, epithets will NOT be tolerated in our schools. Our student handbook and board policy condemns such hate speech and provides related consequences. Parents, I urge you to have these crucial conversations with your children on diversity and being anti-racist as well as the basic expectations of using Zoom. The district, with parents and our community as partners, will continue to be honest and responsible in developing an equitable environment that is truly welcoming.

Let us be the school district and city that can say "Racism: Not in our town!" Please, we are so much better than this.

Sincerely,

Dr. M

Dr. Josh J. Middleton, Superintendent  
Granite Falls School District  
Granite Falls, WA 98252