



Dear Parents,

We in the Oakridge School District value the strengths that our diverse students and families bring to our community. The diverse ethnicity, culture and languages add to the richness of our community.

Over the past few months, we know that our students have witnessed divisive, disturbing and hateful speech by adults engaged in the presidential campaign. This harmful modeling by adults negatively impacts our students. Some students are fearful of the whole process, while others are emboldened to mimic this speech and behavior often unaware or insensitive to the impact on others.

As public school educators, it is our responsibility to ensure every student is free to learn in an environment that is safe, respectful, supportive and inclusive. We believe it is important to teach our students the responsibility that comes with our great liberty of free speech. We see the current political climate as an opportunity for us to teach students how to exercise free speech without hurtful, hateful, disruptive speech and bullying behavior.

Please partner with us to keep all students both physically and emotionally safe. Let your students know you expect them to stay in school. Join us in teaching our students to be responsible citizens by engaging in ways that are respectful, safe and focused on learning.

Our staff will set the expectations for safe and respectful classrooms and schools. We are clear about our responsibilities with regards to both keeping the school environments safe and ensuring students' First Amendment Right to Free Speech. We are ready to hold students to high standards and teach students how to converse in ways that uphold the dignity of every person even when they have differing opinions.

We the staff of the Oakridge School District take seriously our mission of *"Schools and community partnering to prepare students for productive citizenship."*

Thank you for the honor of educating your students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Donald Kordosky,
Superintendent
Oakridge School District