

February 7, 2024

Dear South Side Parents and Guardians,

As educators and caretakers of your children, it is our utmost priority to create a safe and nurturing environment where students can learn and grow academically, socially, and emotionally. However, a recent discussion in a classroom has raised concerns among some parents, and it is with deep sincerity that we address these matters.

We understand that our role as educators is to teach and guide our students through various subjects, ensuring they develop critical thinking skills and an understanding of the world around them. While our intentions are always rooted in fostering a welcoming environment for all, we acknowledge that certain topics discussed in the classroom may cause discomfort and/or disagreement among some families.

As we reflect on a recent classroom discussion, we understand that the topic of gender identity was not age-appropriate or conducive to the developmental stage of our elementary students. We sincerely apologize for any discomfort or concern that may have arisen as a result of the discussion. We have emphasized with staff members that topics of discussion need to align with curriculum and level of student's maturity. Additionally, the issue has been addressed with staff directly involved.

Moving forward, we commit to being more mindful of the topics we introduce in the classroom and ensure that they align with the age and maturity level of our students. We strive to foster open communication with parents regarding the curriculum and any potentially sensitive topics that may arise.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kayla Blakeslee

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