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October 5, 2021

Dear LPSS Families:

After a strong start to the school year, I am reaching out to all families in the district to address the latest TikTok trend. School districts across the country are responding to theft and vandalism of school property and other concerning behaviors after students started posting videos of themselves on TikTok completing destructive challenges.

Our district is not immune to this concerning trend. What may have started as minor pranks, has now turned into costly repairs and replacements, restricted access to bathrooms, and other distractions from the important work schools are doing to keep students safe, and learning in person. Not only is the damage expensive to repair, stolen items are difficult to replace during the pandemic. Now we hear the challenges are escalating, and kids are being encouraged to hit or slap a staff member, moving from property damage to violence.

Please make sure your student realizes that these challenges are not innocent pranks. Serious disciplinary action will be imposed on students being destructive or displaying any inappropriate behavior. Restitution will be made for damaged property. Additionally, theft, vandalism, and striking a teacher will lead to police involvement. No exceptions will be made for such behaviors.

These continued challenges highlight the negative effects of peer pressure sometimes found on social media. This is a good opportunity to discuss with your child appropriate technology use and being socially responsible. Please remind your child about the importance of making good choices at school, and to keep their focus on learning.

Even if your child doesn't have TikTok, and/or isn't likely to be involved in questionable behavior, please remember that conversations about appropriate school behaviors increase the likelihood of students remaining in school, and avoiding suspensions or expulsions. We want to encourage our students to have pride in their schools. Ask your student how they can make someone's day brighter with a smile or a helping hand. Small acts of service can have a greater impact than a few seconds of going viral. Let our students make headlines for being difference makers and positive role models.

We encourage our students to always be respectful of school property, their peers, and of school staff members. If students are aware of destructive TikTok challenges taking place at school, they should inform their parents, their administrators, or another adult on campus.

Thank you for taking this matter seriously and for your efforts to help ensure LPSS schools are safe teaching and learning environments for all students and staff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Irma D. Trosclair".

Irma D. Trosclair
Superintendent