

**Subject Line:** Follow up message on the Serious Incident from Monday at Sherwood High School

**Dear Sherwood High School Families,**

We are following up on the incident at Sherwood High School that we wrote about in [this message](#) on Monday. The message was to report that a noose was found draped over the fence surrounding the school's tennis courts. It is important to acknowledge that our communication did not adequately address the significance of this incident and the pain that this symbol caused within our community, particularly among our Black students, families and staff.

A noose is a symbol rooted in the painful and violent history of racism in the United States, specifically directed at Black individuals. The sight of a noose can easily bring forth feelings of fear, anger and trauma, as it represents the horrific legacy of racial violence that Black Americans have faced for generations. As a community that values inclusion, respect and the safety of all students, any symbol of hate should be met with immediate denouncement.

At Sherwood High School, these moments challenge us to reaffirm our commitment to fostering a school environment that actively opposes racism and uplifts the voices and experiences of all students, especially those from historically marginalized backgrounds. To reaffirm our commitment, we will provide opportunities for students to discuss this incident, our response and our continued work together to address and combat hate and racism. To provide immediate support to our students, the counseling team, social worker, school psychologist and restorative team will be available to all students. It is our top priority to allow our students a safe space to have their voices be heard and concerns validated.

At Sherwood High School, we will continue to nurture an environment where every student feels safe, valued and heard. By having open conversations at home, you will support these efforts as it is through partnerships that we can work together to heal and strengthen our community.

Should you have any questions, please send an email to [timothy\\_d\\_britton@mcpsmd.org](mailto:timothy_d_britton@mcpsmd.org).

Sincerely,

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| Timothy Britton<br>Principal<br>Sherwood High School | Thomas W. Taylor, Ed.D.<br>Superintendent<br>Montgomery County Public Schools |
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