

Lorain City School Board,

A request was made to give a status of physical altercations that have occurred between students at Lorain High School.

The following is a report of fighting provided by Mr. Daniel Garvey the executive director of Lorain High School

- On Tuesday, September 4, 2018 there were **0 fights**
- On Wednesday, September 5, 2018 there were **3 fights** and all students were suspended.
- On Thursday, September 6, 2018 there were **0 fights**
- On Friday, September 7, 2018 there were - **2 fights** (Elevated suspension for one student due to pre-meditation, suspensions for the others.
- On Friday at dismissal, there was also a large gathering in the front of the building that resulted in Lorain Police Department reporting to the school. There were no physical altercations; however, the primary participants in the verbal exchange were suspended. The incident was reported to central office.

In the past year, the district has:

1. Established a district safety task force with school and community membership
2. Created a coalition of scholars who support efforts to create a safer school experience
3. Established a Chief Family Office who will partner with our Operations Office to establish and maintain safe learning environments

The district is taking the following action to address current and future concerns:

1. School leaders met with teachers to discuss the action steps that will be taken to address current and future behavior concerns
2. The district is working in partnership with the Lorain Police Department to identify larger community challenges that are influencing scholar behaviors at school
3. The district is work directly with school leadership to maintain a safe and positive learning environment in the high school
4. The district is identifying those scholars creating the greatest concern and taking immediate action to eliminate the problem in adherence to district policy (provided)
5. Re-evaluate the district's scholar code of conduct in order to enhance school safety

The district is working with school resource officers and the Lorain Police Department to identify gang activity and prevent gang-related violence. Conduct deemed gang-related is dealt with more severely than conduct not related to gang activity. School administrators are adhering to district's student code of conduct and district's gang policy.



LORAIN CITY SCHOOLS

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September 10, 2018

Lorain Family,

It has been a tremendous start to our school year, for all. Together, we have experienced an exuberant amount of joy from the moment we welcomed back our teachers and staff, and comments such as “this has been the best start to a school year in my career” are becoming commonplace as each school day passes. This memorable start to our school year could not have happened without the dedication and pursuit of perfection from our team and our family. From our custodians to our technology teams—and all in between—we have had an “all hands on deck” start of the school year. One which will render the results our promise has set out to create.

For that reason, I am thankful. But at the same time, aware we have faced challenges—some of which are largely based in academics and will be addressed over time. We also acknowledge that the urgency we have placed behind what needs to get done for our scholars to realize their dreams will take some time. The hours of school training experienced over the summer will create greatness for our district, and our city, because it is translating into schools that are expecting excellence, from dress code to standards-driven rigorous lessons developed by our dedicated teachers—all of which will pay off in the end.

At the same time, as hopeful as I will remain, our path forward has not gone without incident. We have also seen a few extreme behaviors that raise a concern about the safety of our high school community—something we take and act on with a great sense of seriousness and urgency. As always, I will operate with a high level of transparency. Lorain High School has experienced several physical altercations and serious verbal disruptions that often stem from larger community disputes that transpire outside of our school.

We cannot and will not allow for these isolated behaviors to dominate the positive culture we are creating at Lorain High School. For that reason, we are taking a strong stance against these actions and are dealing with these individuals swiftly so that we can continue building the environment our scholars deserve: one that is safe, focused on academics and free of distractions that could get in the way of excellence.

This same expectation of excellence can be witnessed throughout our district. Our elementary schools and middle schools are building positive environments commendable and largely free of egregious behavior incidents. With that said, our time and energy will remain the same at our elementary and middle schools so that the positive behavior growth we see in 13 of our 14 school communities continues to get stronger. However, we realize we have to double down our time and energy on working with our high school teachers and leaders to create the environment that all involved deserve. To start, we must remove the isolated behaviors of fewer than twenty scholars, so that the educational well-being of 2,000 scholars can thrive.

In some cases, our response will be stronger than normal to establish clarity on where we stand when it comes to our scholars’ safety. The message will be clear. However, we will continue to work through our restorative practices in an effort to build a community that lifts each other up rather than breaks each other down. The creation of this environment, however, will take more time and we will not sacrifice anyone’s well-being to establish the long-term impact of restorative practice. For more details on the restorative practice in response to fights at Lorain High School please click the following link: <https://bit.ly/2O934ld>. As always, I invite you, as a community member, to engage with us as we work together to build the high school experience our scholars need to become successful adults.

With Titan Pride,

David Hardy, Jr., CEO



Home of the TITANS