



EASTPOINTE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Christina A. Gibson
Superintendent

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Dear Secondary Campus families,

Managing emotions under pressure is a tough skill to master. Often, the passion of a close athletic contest heightens these emotions. It's what makes playing games amazing, challenging and rewarding – the highs and lows, winning and losing.

On Friday night, our Eastpointe High School football team was faced with this situation. Leading through the 3rd quarter, the Shamrocks felt this might be their first chance to win a game in this hard football season. I left at the end of the 3rd quarter and watched two high school teams battling it out of the field – amazing throws, great running and blocking, and two groups of young men giving it their all.

At the end of the game, in a time of great emotion, our varsity football team did not have a good experience in a congratulatory line. Emotions were high from both teams. Words and gestures were exchanged and not interpreted well. As word of this incident reached social media, our students were rumored to have weapons or participated in large fights, however, this was not the case.

Our athletic coordinator and head football coach have been meeting over the weekend with our young athletes, and some student actions will have consequences under the guidance of our administrative team. Our football team is a young group composed of freshmen and sophomores with few upperclassmen. Many of these student-athletes are experiencing organized sports for the first time, and good sportsmanship is a skill that must be learned and practiced like any other. We hope our student-athletes will take this opportunity to learn and do better in the future.

This is also a time for us to ask ourselves as adults and community members if we are modeling good sportsmanship and citizenship to our children. We must ask if our actions, whether in person or online, are helping to support our children and our community.

It is my hope that our Eastpointe community can find ways to support all of our students, rather than contributing to a toxic online atmosphere of misinformation. Our student-athletes have a lot to learn as they grow as future citizens and leaders. But so too do we as a community, working together to rise and lift up our children.

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