

ASHLAND HIGH SCHOOL



Kelley St. Coeur
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Dear Ashland High School Staff, Students, and Families,

I am writing today to share upsetting and concerning news. This morning, a student discovered a swastika written on an internal door in a back hallway. The student immediately reported it to the classroom teacher, who in turn, notified building administration. The Ashland Police and the Superintendent's office were immediately notified. Unfortunately, we are not sure when it was drawn, but will be investigating any information we receive.

I am incredibly disappointed and disgusted with this act of hate. Actions such as this have a profound and sometimes unknown impact on a community. However, we do know the impact it had on the students and teacher who discovered it. AHS has done a great deal of work to address hate and discrimination over the past several years. Every day we strive to create a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for all of our students and staff. An act such as this highlights the fact that our work must continue and be a top priority.

AHS endeavors to be a safe place, free of graffiti like this or any other hateful messages, whether verbal, written or otherwise. We must be able to provide the support we need when hate does permeate our walls. I am grateful for the strong in-school and community support we have built that will help us send an unequivocal message that AHS and the Ashland Public Schools are not places for hate.

If you know of any information about this graffiti, please share it with me or one of the deans. If you need support dealing with this offensive act, or ideas on how to support young people in addressing hate, please seek out one of our counselors.

If I receive any additional information, I will continue to share it with you.

Respectfully,

Kelley St. Coeur