



Friday, October 1, 2021

A LETTER FROM EAST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TO MONTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

I would like to provide an update on our examination of the unfortunate events that took place during the September 24th football game between East Catholic High School and Montville High School.

We are heartbroken that a young woman from Montville High School had such a negative experience at East Catholic—if we knew who the offending party was, that person would have been disciplined by now. So instead, on behalf of our entire school, and myself personally, I apologize to this young woman and any others who may have had a negative experience—I am deeply sorry this happened, and I promise you that we can and will do better.

On Wednesday, September 29th, we joined representatives from Montville High School to meet with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). We had an amicable, open discussion about the events that took place at the game and its conclusion. In addition to our pledge to work together to reinforce our schools' commitment to equality, tolerance and embracing of all people, we committed to have student leaders from both schools attend a meeting and Class Act Council leadership training at CIAC offices. The CIAC's Class Act Schools initiative is designed to empower schools and particularly students to take ownership for all issues related to sportsmanship in athletics.

At East Catholic High School, our Mission Statement closes with "Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, East Catholic is a welcoming environment for all students," and we have no tolerance for derisive and unkind words or behavior directed at our own students or students from other schools. Interscholastic sporting events are times for celebration of teamwork, leadership and achievement—not derision and negativity. As educators, we all have the responsibility to teach our students not only about their scholastic subjects, but also about acceptance, responsibility and leadership.

With that in mind, let me reiterate that not only can we do better, we *will* do better. We look forward to working collaboratively with you and your students in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean P. Brennan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sean P. Brennan, Class of '85

President

East Catholic High School