

## JAMESVILLE-DEWITT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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DR. PETER C. SMITH  
SUPERINTENDENT

July 10, 2020

Dear Jamesville-DeWitt families and staff:

We recently discovered an anonymous #TimesUpJD Instagram account that includes many anonymous first-person accounts of incidents ranging from the objectification of girls in our community to sexual harassment to alleged assaults.

While no names were used in the posts, in some cases locations were described and were on school campus. These allegations are very serious. Our challenge with investigating these claims lies with the anonymity of the authors.

When young people speak up in such personal, painful ways, we must believe them. As a school community, we need to do all that we can to offer assistance to current or former students, including providing counseling and support. With that said, we need your help. Parents, if you haven't already done so, please take some time to speak to your child about whether they have experienced or witnessed any kind of behavior that made them uncomfortable or that has jeopardized their safety.

We do believe that some posts by individuals who identify themselves as current or former students are related to cases that have already been investigated and settled. Whether or not this is the case, all of the incidents described in the TimesUp posts demand our attention. They are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our school community.

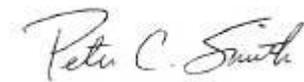
This year, we promised to do better. Our focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion permeates our actions as educational leaders here at Jamesville-DeWitt. One of our goals is to stand united in support of all students, families, and staff members. We are committed to providing a safe, caring, inclusive, equitable, and challenging learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment.

With these painful accounts of negligence, harassment and assault described on Instagram, it's clear we have a lot of work to do, but I promise you—our students, alumni and families—that change is coming. We will continue to work together to find real solutions to these issues in our schools.

Our school counselors are always available to provide support. Victims can use TipLine (<https://www.jamesvilledewitt.org/stopbullying.cfm>) our system for reporting an incident, or reach out to Nate Franz, Dignity for All Students Act Compliance Officer, [nfranz@jd.cnyric.org](mailto:nfranz@jd.cnyric.org). The confidential New York State Hotline for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (1-800-942-6906) is answered 24-7 by trained counselors and keeps identity confidential.

Thank you for your support and together, we are JD. Please contact me with questions.

Sincerely,



Peter C. Smith