

Please direct inquiries to

Holly Henderson, Marketing and Communications Specialist
hhenderson@barabooschools.net
(608) 355-3950, ext. 1520
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Statement from the Baraboo School District

BARABOO, Wis. — The Baraboo School District sent the following letter to parents/guardians through the Infinite Campus student management system.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We would like to once again follow up regarding the image taken of students in our community last spring and share actions the District is engaged in to move forward with educational resources to support our students and families.

Building upon the work that is already underway in the Baraboo School District, such as our rich curriculum, ongoing professional development for all staff, District Social Equity Work Group, and student groups focused on social justice, the District is committed to the following as next educational steps:

- *Engage in an ongoing partnership with community leaders to facilitate **Baraboo Acts**, including the development of a short-term and long-term community action plan*
- *Continue to provide **mental health supports** for students and staff experiencing trauma from global media attention*
- *Conduct annual field trips with Baraboo High School students to the **Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Illinois** (<https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/>)*
- *Invite **Holocaust speakers** annually to Jack Young Middle School as part of the school's curriculum*
- *Post "**Holocaust & WWII Resources & Opportunities: At-a-Glance**" to the Baraboo School District's website for individuals to provide teaching and learning suggestions and feedback for curriculum teams to review (www.baraboo.k12.wi.us/)*
- *Review and revise the District's **social media** teaching and learning practices*
- *Develop a K-12 scope and sequence of knowledge and skills for teachers to use for instruction on **social justice***
- *Partner with Baraboo area's **Teens-N-Theatre** to perform "Hurt People" at Baraboo High School*
- *Enlist the expertise and assistance from the **YWCA** to build capacity and leadership for restorative practices/justice with students, staff, and parents*

- Contract services from educational expert **Paul Gorski** to conduct a district-wide equity audit and develop an action plan for social equity work; the results of which will be included in our 2019-2022 District Strategic Planning process
- In collaboration with community leaders, host the first **Baraboo Acts** event for the Baraboo community at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 17, 2018, at the Al Ringling Theatre - **Special Presentation by Arno Michaelis and Pardeep Kaleka of Serve 2 Unite** (This event will be free and open to the public) (www.giftofourwounds.com/serve2unite)
- Organize and facilitate a full day of peace assemblies and sessions on Dec. 18, 2018, for the Baraboo High School student body in collaboration with **Masood Akhtar**, President and Founder of the **We Are Many United Against Hate** organization (<https://www.united-against-hate.org/>), and **Elana Kahn**, Director, **Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation** (<https://www.milwaukeejewish.org/>)

This list is not all-inclusive and will continue to grow over the next few months and years.

*Please note that we have added a page to our website dedicated to **Baraboo Acts**, in which all official Baraboo School District press releases in regards to hate and racism, and all **Baraboo Acts** invitations, programs, and event details can be found moving forward. The City of Baraboo and Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce will also provide their official press releases to be included on this page.*

*As previously stated, hate has no home in Baraboo. We understand the moral responsibility we have to be relentless in our work to create a hate-free environment where **all** people, regardless of race, color, religion, abilities, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, immigration status or ancestry, are respected and celebrated. We will come together and, in a meaningful way, consider the travesties of the past that were fueled by hatred and embrace a future of the celebration of diversity fueled by love and acceptance.*

Sincerely,

The Baraboo School Board of Education and Dr. Lori M. Mueller, District Administrator

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