

Covington, Jason R

From: HISD Superintendent
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 8:09 AM
To: Lujan, Imelda A; Spencer, Jason G
Subject: FW: ADL Denounces Hateful Protest at Arabic Immersion School

Email from ADL to Dr. Grier.

From: Bernstein, Jodi [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 4:37 PM
To: HISD Superintendent
Cc: Shaw, Susan
Subject: ADL Denounces Hateful Protest at Arabic Immersion School

Dear Dr. Grier, I wanted you to see the letter we just Emailed to Principal Kate Adams at the Arabic Immersion Magnet School. We remain your ally in efforts to make Houston No Place for Hate®.

Sincerely, Jodi Bernstein

August 25, 2015

Ms. Kate Adams
Principal
Arabic Immersion Magnet School
Houston Independent School District
812 W 28th St
Houston, TX 77008

Dear Ms. Adams,

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is deeply troubled by the protest outside HISD's Arabic Immersion Magnet School as reported in the Houston Chronicle and other news media recently. The images of the protestors carrying placards with hateful and bigoted language and waving American and Israeli flags are especially disconcerting. Equating your efforts to teach young children Arabic with terrorism is despicable and we categorically denounce the protestors' hateful messages.

ADL was founded in 1913 "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all." Now the nation's premier civil rights/human relations agency, ADL fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defends democratic ideals and protects civil rights for all. As an organization with roots in the Jewish community, we support all language immersion schools in our community. We are so very disappointed at the anti-Muslim bigotry being displayed. This program is a gift to our community. According to Dr. Stephen Klineberg, "The American future is here in Houston, now. He notes that a demographic revolution over the last 40 years has made Houston "the most ethnically diverse city in this country." ADL celebrates this diversity and works hard to promote respect, inclusiveness and civility to ensure that Houston is place for people of all faiths and backgrounds to live, learn, work, play and pray.

Bigotry and hateful rhetoric have no place in our community.

HISD actively participates in ADL's No Place for Hate® Initiative that provides educators and students with the resources to ensure that anti-bias and diversity education are an integral of the school's curriculum. No Place for Hate® also helps to create and sustain inclusive school environments where all students feel valued and have the opportunity to succeed by promoting respect for individual difference while challenging bigotry and prejudice. We have cadre of resources that could be helpful to you and your educators and encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.adl.org/education-outreach/>. We also welcome the opportunity to visit with you in person and will call you soon to arrange a mutually convenient time for us to meet.

Please know ADL is here to speak to out against this bigoted rhetoric. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jodi Bernstein
Senior Associate Director
ADL Southwest Region

Susan Shaw
Associate Director, Education
ADL Southwest Region

Jodi Bernstein
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