

Concerned Norwalk Parent, Wed. Dec. 1, 2021

Racism has run rampant at Nathan Hale Middle School in Norwalk. First, a white female gym teacher said the N word over the walkie talkie system about a month ago. Several students, parents, and teachers heard her say this reprehensible word multiple times. The PE teacher was never sent home or placed on any sort of leave. I was standing outside with my daughter when I heard the word. As a parent, we have had no communication of an apology from the PE teacher. Again, the district never took any action to remove this teacher.

The second incident happened yesterday (Tuesday) morning when a white female 7th grade English Language Arts teacher said the N word to a group of students in her homeroom and proceeded to repeat the word several times. When students confronted her and asked her not to use the word, she dug deeper and said "no one owns the word", her "family never had slaves so she use the word freely", and she has a "freedom to say/use the word." She went as far as to write the word on the white board and said she is allowed to say the word with an "a" at the end or an "er" at the end, "it's her choice" After being subjected to her tirade, the students walked out and got the principal. One of those students was my daughter.

Ironically (or not), the 7th grade teacher involved in yesterday's incident sent a bouquet of flowers to the gym teacher in October on behalf of the NHMS community for the "trauma" she went through dealing with the NAACP...for saying a racist word. From what I'm told by faculty members, they were appalled.

The ELA teacher was sent home and did not return to school today. No communication has been sent to families.

I called Brenda Penn Williams. She has been at the scene several times and is very involved with both cases. Please reach out to her for further information. I would like to remain anonymous, but I think the media should be aware of the trauma our kids are enduring this year at Nathan Hale Middle School. This needs to be a news story to hold NPS accountable.