

This week, the Arrowhead Union High School Administration became aware of an inappropriate and unacceptable image that was posted on social media on Monday, February 5, 2024. The image was created approximately 4 months ago by a 9th grade Arrowhead student, but only posted to a small, private social media group. Another student captured a screenshot of the image months ago, but it was not posted, shared or brought to our attention. The image was put out on social media this week by a parent of an Arrowhead student. The personal phones and accounts used to create and post the image have no connection to the school district.

The image in question is of two students in the foreground, and there is a small group of students sitting at a table in the background. The image has the completely unacceptable and abhorrent caption that refers to the table as the "N-word table".

Only the individuals who possessed the 4-month old image can explain why they did not bring it to anyone's attention until now. It appears there may have been an attempt to connect the 4-month old image to a separate and unrelated interaction that occurred between students this week. As those incidents are completely unrelated, and involve different students, it is unclear why anyone would try to connect the two.

District administrators have been in continual communication with all of the students and families involved. Supporting the students targeted by the unacceptable post is a top priority.

The unacceptable language is the result of an extremely young, immature student who had a complete lack of awareness of the implications and impacts of using this racist term. That in no way excuses the behavior. The students responsible for this social media post will be held accountable through the most appropriate consequences.

School administrators and teachers do all we can to produce critically thinking, kind, compassionate, respectful, hard-working problem-solvers who will become leaders in our communities. Some students do make poor decisions. Sometimes those decisions are due to ignorance and/or immaturity. Some poor decisions are due to influences like social media, which exposes students to horrible messages and beliefs that we do not tolerate in our schools.

This repugnant post does not represent our students, staff, families or community. Human beings, particularly adolescents, are not perfect. They make mistakes. We do our best to have students learn from mistakes, while holding them accountable to the high standards we have at AHS.

We do not teach, condone, promote or in any way facilitate hurtful, mean-spirited and/or racist behavior. Public school staff take on the responsibility for our society to teach and model caring and respectful behavior. We emphasize treating others with dignity and respect at all times. We emphasize treating others the way we want to be treated. We emphasize being kind.

We will continue to serve our role in educating our citizens and future leaders so that ignorance is replaced by knowledge, apathy is replaced by empathy and resentment is replaced by resilience, kindness and forgiveness.

There is no further comment on this matter.