

Dear West Families:

As you know, West Junior High is in the process of transitioning to a community school. This means that our school provides a full range of services that are co-located in our space and made possible through grant funding. There are more than 5,000 community schools across this country, and studies indicate that investments that help build community schools add incredible social value. You can learn more about our community school model by watching this video.

As part of our community school model, we have a partnership with MyHealth. The clinic operates within our space but is run and operated by MyHealth staff. The clinic provides a range of services including vaccines, flu shots, asthma care, sports physicals, child and teen well checks, acne/rash care, vaping cessation information, and care for minor injuries. Services provided on-site allow students to stay in school and parents to stay at work if getting to a primary care doctor is inconvenient. Hopkins Schools has had a partnership with MyHealth for more than ten years.

On Monday of this week, we were made aware of a social media story produced by a group called <u>Libs of TikTok</u>, an organization known for spreading false and hateful claims towards LGBTQ youth. This story presented our partnership with MyHealth in a way that is designed to provoke fear and division. We are not sharing this story as we don't want to drive traffic to their site; however, it is being shared extensively in troll-like spaces on Twitter.

West Junior High is an inclusive community and we stand by our LGBTQ students, families, and staff. We support the personal, social and psychological safety of our students. We condemn the content of Libs of TikTok and the approach they used to obtain information for their story, which included an adult from Libs of TikTok impersonating a child struggling with gender identity.

West Junior High values the strong relationships that we have with parents and caregivers. As with any offering provided in our schools, parents and caregivers have the right and ability to opt their child(ren) out of MyHealth services. We want to make this absolutely clear as the story intentionally vilifies the adults at West and MyHealth and suggests that our goal would be to exclude parents from important conversations about their children. This is not only not true, it has led to threatening messages being sent to our staff from people outside our community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are a small, tight knit community. Let's resist letting outside forces define us.

In partnership,

Leanne Kampfe, Principal