Rio Americano Families,

By now, many of you have heard about two incidents that happened on our campus Friday, October 17. I want to take this time to update our community on those issues, how they are being handled and how we are moving forward.

First off, a group of students numbering between 75 and 125 held a silent protest on campus that lasted until the end of the period. The silent protest was in response to an incident that happened between an administrator and a student. The protesters did not agree with how the situation was handled by the administration. I met with two representatives who organized the protest then met with the entire group in the library. I answered all the questions I could and told students when I could not be specific because of confidentiality. At the end of the question session, students agreed to go back to class as long as they were allowed to continue to show the support for the student as they had at the silent protest. That was acceptable to me and students finished their day in class. In this entire situation the students handled themselves in a respectful manner and I applaud them for that.

The students who participated in the protest and signed in at the library meeting will have their absences cleared by the administration. Any instruction missed is something that cannot be made up, but any missed work, tests or quizzes for those periods can be made up. Moving forward from this point, I want parents and students to know that any missed classes in protest of this situation will not result in cleared absences. What that means is students would receive a class cut and not be able to make up work, tests or quizzes because of any future protest.

I would also encourage parents to monitor student twitter, instagram, and YouTube pages. Student’s actions are based on information they believe to be true. Since these matters are confidential the information that is being passed around may not always be accurate.

The second issue that arose Friday involved a student reporting a written threat in a bathroom on campus. I will not repeat the threat, but will say it was concerning enough for us to involve Safe Schools and have them do a threat assessment. Late Friday afternoon I finished my meeting at the district with Safe Schools and even though we have no reason to believe the threat was credible we will have extra Safe School presence at the site until we can determine the threat is a non-issue.

If you have any questions about these incidents, please do not hesitate to contact me at 979-8860.

Brian T. Ginter
Principal
Rio Americano HS