



Thursday, February 10, 2022

Statement from Mountain Brook Schools:

The last few days have been a very difficult time for the high school, school system, and community. Earlier this week, we released a statement concerning an instructional method used in a US History lesson. We continue to learn about this matter and have heard many perspectives.

One thing has become clear, the instructional strategy for this lesson lacked sensitivity, and however unintentional, caused hurt and distress within the community. More than 17 million people were killed, including 6 million Jews, during the Holocaust and this salute desecrates their memory. We are deeply apologetic for the pain caused. There are more effective ways to teach this subject without recreating painful, emotional responses to history's atrocities. To improve our instructional strategies, we will continue to work with the Alabama Holocaust Education Center to advance training for our teachers surrounding Antisemitism, the Holocaust, and its symbols.

We are committed to providing a safe learning environment for everyone in our schools. We continue to be in close communication with the Birmingham Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Relations Council. We understand the impact of this issue on our community and families. We will continue to provide education and additional opportunities for ongoing dialogue within the community.

We absolutely and unequivocally stand against Antisemitism.