

Testimony for banning hate symbols in BCPS Schools

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In my time at Hereford, I have seen some offensive symbols. I would like to state that it is a very small group of people responsible, but the actions of one affect us all. In the bathrooms I have seen several Swastikas, a formerly Hindu symbol that was prominently used by Nazi Germany. It is sad and disappointing to see that symbol carved or drawn on a bathroom stall door. Not only does this count as vandalism, but it perpetuates the notions associated with the Nazis. I am inclined to believe that the placement of the symbols are an act caused by teenage hormones and not true hatred; or at least the vast majority; but that does not excuse the display of the symbol. I think that more education is needed, especially at a younger but still mature age to teach everyone about history and the significance of symbols. People are not sensitive to the power of symbols unless they have an emotional reaction.

Symbols such as the swastika should only be shown during class by the teacher during a relevant lesson. They should not be allowed to be displayed around school property, such as car stickers or flags or any other form.