



DeSoto Independent School District

September 21, 2016

As our nation struggles with very real issues, we in DeSoto ISD are teaching our children they have avenues to express themselves and that includes the First Amendment. We recognize the right of all members of our organization to express their views or to protest against actions or opinions with which they disagree.

Conversations held prior to the team display included teachable moments with players and staff about why we as Americans stand for the National Anthem, the possible outcomes of community discord and the individuals being able to articulate why they were choosing to kneel and how they are seeking for solutions to the issues they were protesting.

This is in no way exclusive of the respect we have for our members of the armed forces and those who have fought to provide that freedom. The fact of the matter is that these young adults want a country that is even better – one that upholds the rights of every man, woman, and child equally.

In addition, we have an amazing relationship with our local law enforcement and have recently held several community events to maintain those open lines of communication between the citizens of our community including our ISD parents, students and staff with the DeSoto Police Department and the City of DeSoto.

This was a peaceful, non-confrontational action for our young adults to communicate their frustrations and fears for events taking place beyond DeSoto. We respect their right to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David C. Harris".

Dr. David C. Harris
DeSoto ISD Superintendent

The mission of DeSoto ISD is to prepare each student academically and socially to be a problem solver and productive citizen for a 21st century global society.