

December 20, 2019

John Griffith
Principal
Riverton High School

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Principal Griffith,

I'm writing from [TeachKind](#)—PETA's humane education division, which works with thousands of educators nationwide to bring compassion into the classroom—after having seen [disturbing reports](#) that two Riverton High School students came to school on December 18 wearing white robes that officials say were "designed to represent KKK apparel." PETA is an organization that has long championed the equality of all—no matter the race, gender, or species—and has dedicated decades of hard work to stopping bullying and other cruel treatment of those regarded as different or lesser-than, so we are horrified by this behavior. In light of this incident, we'd like to offer educators in your school TeachKind's free resources—including our "How Bigotry Begins" video, which encourages students to examine the intersections of all forms of prejudice against humans and other animals—to help ensure that an offensive incident like this one never occurs again in your community.

The video empowers students to synthesize information from the historical framework that they've studied and use what they've learned to explore current moral dilemmas. "How Bigotry Begins" fosters student engagement and higher-order thinking skills as it focuses on the theme of the systematic "othering" of and discrimination against different groups of human beings as well as members of different animal species and explores why we should consider all sentient living beings in the fight for social justice. It sparks lively discussions among students with a wide range of perspectives—especially Gen Z members, who have proven to be highly motivated by social justice issues, including animal rights.

You can preview the "How Bigotry Begins" video used in the presentation [here](#). Superintendent Snyder's comment that these students didn't have an "[understanding](#)" of their actions is likely true of other students as well. So we would love to host a free presentation to accompany the video in order to further help students examine and understand these important and interconnected topics. The video gives students time to reflect on the information provided and determine their position as well as the rationale behind their thinking. It also gives them the freedom to change their position after evaluating another person's reasoning. "How Bigotry Begins" can also help meet [Wyoming Content and Performance Standards for grades nine through 12](#) to integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats and evaluate the credibility and accuracy of each source.

TeachKind staff have been working with schools throughout the country to assist them in integrating humane education into their curriculum. We're here to help, and we'd love to discuss this possibility with you. Please let me know when you might be available.

Sincerely,



TeachKind

TeachKind

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Megan Snyder
TeachKind Coordinator

Cc: Terry Snyder, Superintendent, Fremont County School District #25 (via e-mail:

