October 20, 2025

The Mount Carmel Area School District recently settled in relation to a hazing lawsuit that involved student athletes from our football program during the Fall of 2020.

As stated from the onset of this case, the district had no knowledge of these hazing incidents involving our football program, which occurred off school grounds, prior to the Fall of 2020.

All information our district uncovered related to this case, which was very limited during the Fall of 2020 was immediately turned over to local police as well as sent to PA Child Line authorities. As those who followed this unfortunate incident remember, the local police turned the case over to Northumberland County who then turned the case over to the State Attorney General's Office which ultimately conducted the investigation. Our district fully cooperated with all authorities during this process.

Since our district first became aware of these hazing allegations, many additional safeguards have been put into place, and currently continue today, including:

- Our School Board and Administration reviewing hazing board policy (Policy 247) and made necessary updates.
- Updated Athletic Policy and Athletic Parent and Student Handbook to include expectations for all students related to anti-hazing.
- All student athletes involved in extracurriculars will complete a *National Federation of High School Sports Anti-Hazing Course* once per academic year before participating in any sport at MCA. Students must hand in a course completion certificate to their respective coach.
- All coaches, teachers, and staff of extracurricular activities will complete a Hazing Informational Course, once per school year, via the *Vector Solutions Safe Schools Platform.* Course completion is tracked through our athletic office.
- Our district will continue to bring in guest speakers to meet with our students to review topics such as bullying, online and in-person threats, social media awareness, and hazing. *(Past speakers include the PA State Attorney General's Office and Northumberland County District Attorney's Office.) We just recently had a guest speaker on September 30th for our high school students to discuss the dangers of hazing.*
- Our district will continue to incorporate leadership activities and curricular lessons both during the school day, after-school, and summer programming activities. (Example: Student Leadership and Social Skills is a major emphasis of our yearly summer Kaupas Camp for our middle school students.)

Fostering a positive environment for our students both on and off campus is of the utmost importance to our school district, as well as having a zero tolerance for any type of hazing within our district.

Due to the confidentiality of this matter, the school district will not be making any further comments at this time.

Pete Cheddar
Mt. Carmel Area Superintendent