



September 18, 2020

Dear Excel Academy High School Families,

We are writing to inform you of a string of unfortunate incidents, commonly known as “Zoom Bombings,” that have occurred over the past two days of our new school year. “Zoom Bombing” occurs when one or more uninvited guests hijack and disrupt a virtual class or meeting. This trend is happening not only in our community, but nationwide, in schools from the elementary through the college level.

Recently, four classes have been disrupted by users, likely Excel students, posing as their peers to gain entry into virtual classrooms. Despite our efforts, there were three instances in which these imposters gained access to classes and shared obscene and hateful language towards staff members and students.

The Excel community condemns these acts and will not tolerate disrespectful, harassing, sexist, racist, homophobic or discriminatory language or gestures of any kind, whether remote or in-person. We are thoroughly investigating these incidents; if those responsible are confirmed to be students, they will receive serious disciplinary consequences.

As a community, we are heartbroken that our staff and students experienced these issues, and invite you to partner with us as we take steps to increase security and safety. By monitoring your child’s online presence and participation in Zoom, you can help us ensure that the online learning environment is safe for all. Our staff will also be implementing increased safety measures, including verifying student’s identities, such as asking them to turn their cameras on as they enter the virtual classroom. Additionally, teachers will be using expanded technical security features to further protect their spaces from unwanted guests or content.

We stand committed to providing all students with the highest quality education and supportive care, despite these challenging times. And we commit that we will keep your child and family’s safety, learning, and well-being at the heart of our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nina Keough".

Nina Keough

18 de septiembre, 2020