



September 1, 2018

Dear Chelsea Families,

My name is Shawn Brower and I am the Upper School Principal at Briarwood Christian School. It has come to my attention that we have failed you as our neighbors. I am grieved by our poor actions and I would humbly ask for your forgiveness. What am I referencing?

Last night at our football game some of our students had created posters that were not in the spirit of encouraging our team but instead were derogatory towards Chelsea and Chelsea students. Naturally, some pictures even ended up being posted to social media. Please know that we are deeply saddened by the actions of some that do not reflect our values and beliefs we embrace at Briarwood nor does it stand up to the name "Christian" that we bear. In addition, it absolutely does not reflect our view of our Chelsea neighbors.

We enjoy and appreciate competition with Chelsea as our programs bring out the best in each other. At times, as in this case, it can also bring out the less than desirable behavior of which breaks this principal's heart and is not indicative of so many of our students.

I have personally addressed this matter with our students, their families and will be continuing to work with our Briarwood community as a whole. Mr. Steiner, our Superintendent, and I have appreciated being able to work closely with your principal Mr. Trucks. He has graciously offered to share our note with you. It is our heart's prayer and earnest desire that through this we can see each other beyond a scoreboard, beyond a rival, and beyond a game. Instead, might we see each other as made in God's image possessing immeasurable value, worth and dignity and thereby strive to see the very best in each other. We have ongoing work to do on our end and yet I commit to the Chelsea community that I will diligently strive to work towards this end in my role as the principal at Briarwood Christian School.

Thank you for your considering our humble request for your forgiveness.

Humbly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Shawn Brower". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Shawn Brower
High School Principal