

Lori & Max Gimelshteyn  
26463 East Caley Drive  
Aurora, CO 80016

September 30, 2021

Ms. Christine Price, Principal  
Infinity Middle School  
25100 E. Belleview Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80016

Dear Mrs. Price,

This emailed letter is a follow up to our phone discussion on September 28, 2021 regarding my concern about a conversation our daughter, Jennifer's CSI Teacher Ms. Catherine Kissner had with her class. On September 21, 2021, Jenny came home from school and shared that Ms. Kissner told the class that "The CMAS (Colorado Measures of Academic Standards) testing questions were directed toward white students and that the test was biased". According to Jennifer, Ms. Kissner's comments led to students having commentary about the CMAS test being "racist".

In response to Jenny's comments, we looked to the Colorado Department of Education website for more information about the assessment, how it is developed, what it measures and the purpose of its use in Colorado Public Schools. A review revealed that the assessment is in alignment with the Colorado Academic Standards developed by 57 Colorado educators, content specialists and assessment experts and is designed to measure college and career readiness for ALL students. I reassured Jenny that the CMAS tests are designed for ALL students and that the Cherry Creek School District would never consider employing the use of racist evaluation materials.

While I appreciate your follow up with me on Tuesday via phone in regards to this issue, I was very upset that my request to Dean Jackson for confidentiality from Ms. Kissner, due to concerns that Jenny would be treated differently in class, was not honored. Dean Jackson assured me that she would handle the situation with you in a confidential manner and I am disappointed that did not happen. In the future, I will be sure to record my verbal conversations with school staff and will request that all verbal communications be formally scheduled so that both parties are aware of who will be in attendance.

In conclusion, Ms. Kissner presented misinformation to her class that impacted her students negatively causing confusion and unnecessary, purposeless discussion about the CMAS test being racist. While I would like to take Ms. Kissner's assertion that she was commenting only about "other" standardized tests being biased, I trust my daughter's assertion that the comments were regarding the CMAS testing specifically, and do think Ms. Kissner's comments were inappropriate for a classroom of seventh grade students. Further, I do think her message in this situation was manipulative and coerced students to think a certain way about this topic. I will be sure to continue my discussions with my daughter to ensure she and her peers are not being unduly influenced by the opinions of a teacher.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lori A. Gimelshteyn

CC:

Mr. Maxim Gimelshteyn  
Dean Charmaine Jackson  
Ms. Catherine Kissner  
Dr. Dominique Jones  
Assistant Superintendent Michael Price  
Superintendent Christopher Smith