It has come to our attention that a few MPS high school students have released a social media post saying they intend to not stand during the National Anthem in protest during the upcoming cross-town rivalry football game between Midland and Dow High Schools on Friday, October 20.

Midland does not sanction this type of activity. Indeed, the district believes that patriotism and love of country should be encouraged and celebrated as reflected in our school policies. All audience members are strongly encouraged to stand and be respectful during our Anthem.

All audience members will not be allowed in areas reserved for the participants of the athletic event, and authorities will be present to assure that no one behaves in a manner that creates a public disturbance or safety risk. That said, while some may be offended by peaceful acts during the Anthem, actions that do not create a disruption are within students’ constitutional rights. As a school district, we remain committed to upholding the law and protecting our students’ constitutional rights, while maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment.