

**PORT NECHES-GROVES ISD**  
**Port Neches-Groves High School**  
**1401 Merriman**  
**Port Neches, Texas 77651**



409-729-7644

*Dr. Jimmy Creel*  
*Superintendent*

409-722-7371 (fax)

*Dr. Scott Ryan*  
*Principal*

STATEMENT TO STAFF, PATRONS, AND MEDIA

On behalf of Port Neches-Groves High School and PNGISD, I would like to sincerely apologize to Nederland High School, the City of Nederland, Nederland Independent School District, and especially the students of Nederland ISD for the behavior of some of our students during last night's installation of Mid County Madness. What we witnessed on the field will go down as perhaps the greatest game played in the history of the "Best Rivalry in the State of Texas." Both of our teams proudly left it all on the field, and as tough as it was to come out on the wrong side of the outcome, one cannot ask for a more exciting finish than ending the game on a make or break 2 point conversion. The regrettable behavior of a few students last night is being discussed at the same time as the great game, and this is unfortunate. Though I cannot talk about student discipline, I can assure you that we will administer discipline according to Texas Education Code Chapter 37 and the PNGISD Student Code of Conduct. I want to commend Administrative Sargent Nicky Matt and his officers, along with Chief Paul Lemoine, for the quick action they took in taking care of the situation to ensure the safety of the patrons of last night's contest. I also want to personally thank Dr. Steven Beagle, my friend and mentor, for answering my minimum 2 calls per day the week of MCM, lending me an ear, and providing guidance and support.

As a staff, we will re-evaluate our standards and expectations for student behavior at Mid County Madness, along with other games. We have not done a great job of monitoring the student section and for that I take personal responsibility. I always brag about our students being the "greatest students in the universe" and I still feel this way; however, due to last night, it may be awhile before others agree. I love those kids and hope that they are not characterized by the actions of a few. Both student sections are absolutely part of what makes Mid County Madness the best. I love seeing how the Nederland students have started their Bark at Dark tradition, much like Midnight Yell at Texas A&M University, my alma mater, and our students met after school to also coordinate some cheers. I loved the way the Nederland Band Drum Line got the students fired up after halftime and ours did the same in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. After attending many games where the players on the field outnumber the students in the stands, both of our communities are extremely lucky to have such outstanding support for our kids.

I know that actions speak louder than words, and if change does not take place, as a result of last night, then this statement is all for nothing. My staff and other stakeholders will be meeting this week to discuss and take action to ensure that future games are not marred by incidents such as last nights. Congratulations again to the Nederland Bulldogs for winning an epic contest between 2 great teams. Hold your heads up high, PNG Indians; you've had an outstanding season to be proud of. Now is the fun part where both communities rally together for the Bulldogs and Indians to make deep runs in the playoffs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Ryan".

Scott Ryan, Ed.D.  
Principal, PNG High School.