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BRIDGETON HIGH SCHOOL

Bridgeton, New Jersey

Office of the Principal

May 25, 1945

Mr. H. Leon Yeager
Relocation Officer
War Relocation Authority
21 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, 7, Pa.

My dear Mr. Yeager:

During the present school year, we have had between 70 and 80 American born Japanese boys and girls enrolled in our High School. These boys and girls came to us at what might be considered a critical time. Prior to their entry into High school, there had been one incident in town that had provoked some feeling toward those of the Japanese race. I want to say also that we do have quite a number of colored boys and girls in our High School student body.

From the very first when these boys and girls joined our student body, they have been received very well by the other pupils. They have made friends with both white and colored. So far as I have been able to observe, there is absolutely no friction.

In their scholastic achievements, almost without exception, they are all turning in very creditable records. We can expect some failures but I believe that the percentage in this particular group is well below what might be expected if we took a group of pupils at random from our student body. We find these boys and girls to be obedient, respectful, courteous and appreciative.

So far as I know, there have been only one or two cases of any of these pupils being sent to the office for discipline. This one particular instance was really not discipline had it not been for some other boys. This particular one probably would not have cut school for the afternoon when our basketball team happened to play out of town.

Members of the faculty are high in their praise of the attitude of all of these children. If the boys and girls which we have are typical of all American born Japanese then they are a credit and an asset to any student body.

Two of the boys were members of our varsity basketball squad. One of them played quite regularly. On the girls' basketball team, we also had two of these pupils. There are three boys on our baseball team. Not long ago, our boys' glee club put on a minstrel show act as a part of an evening musical program. One of the end men in this group was a boy of Japanese parentage.

Perhaps, there are other things that I could say to the credit of these boys and girls but the different things which I have enumerated, I trust are sufficient to satisfy any one that there should be no hesitancy about admitting them to our public schools in the east. I realize, of course, that the student body of this high school may not have the same idea of tolerance and the attitude which is to be found in another high school. I want to say further that the attitude and feeling which these boys and girls have created among the student body has done much so far as the merchants in our town are concerned. I know that the school attitude has certainly changed the thinking of many of the adults. I might add further that I have talked with some of our merchants and they, too, have been extremely well pleased in their dealings with the parents of these boys and girls. As a group, they are modest, quiet and appreciative.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)
Harry C. Smalley
Principal

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