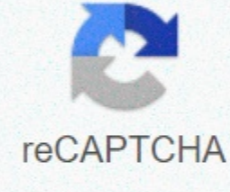




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## Latin school of chicago instagram

Recent accusations of racial injustice in Latin have gained traction following the death of George Floyd. On June 20, an Instagram account called @survivorsoflatin went out to provide a space for students, alumni, parents and teachers to express their experiences with anti-black, racism and xenophobia in Latin. The people behind the coalition have remained anonymous and all but two posts have kept the alleged victims and oppressors anonymous as well. On June 22, The Forum reached out to The Survivors of Latin asking them to appear in an article. Due to their commitment to anonymity, a live interview was not possible and they responded to questions from the Forum by email. How would you describe the purpose of your group? What impact do you want to have on our community? The aim of this group is to give birth to the horrific experiences of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ latin students, alumni, parents and teachers. We look forward to empowering marginalized members of the Latino community to share their truths in solidarity with the other victims of historical and uncontrollable Latino violence, specifically against blackness, racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia. As much as we expect latin to act in the interest of his community, we know that Latin will not make structural changes until the reputation and image of the school is at stake. We have exhausted our tolerance for the open secrecy of Latin and refuse to remain complicit in keeping it for longer. We have taken things into our own hands and look forward to encouraging and supporting anyone who has been silenced to tell their truths aloud. Our primary, elementary, middle and high school years are some of the most formative years of our lives, and although we are not expected to be free of difficulties, the violence and marginalization that we are forced to endure because of our celebrated identities is insidious, vile and wrong. It has had detrimental and lasting effects on those of us who have strongly supported it. Latin should have protected us. They should have looked after us and taken care of us. But instead, they prioritized and welcomed white and affluent Latino abusers for the sake of their donations and salaries. We will no longer allow this culture to normalize. Latin is a microcosm of our larger society, in which marginalized voices have found solidarity in their collective trauma and have begun to demand a society that respects and values their humanity. Latino survivors seek to provide a platform for these voices in Latin to demand justice and structural reform in front of an international audience and an institution that continues to protect and encode white students as they take advantage their power to wreak havoc on marginalized students from the moment they are babies. We are only part of the revolution that is taking place; producing; the culmination of a lifetime of trauma and the survivors who have created a healing community. Black and brown students, especially low-income students of color experience so badly in Latin, while at the same time are told that they feel grateful for the opportunity as if we don't rightly win our place here and don't deserve to have our humanity recognized. Ultimately, this is done in an attempt to blame us quietly; however, we are no longer accepting things that we cannot change. We're changing things we can't accept. Low-income students of color specifically make latin great. We bring our experiences to the classroom. We are the leaders, artists, athletes and innovators. Protected and wealthy white students of Latin learn more from us than we will ever learn from them. We are not simply additions to their diversity quota. Support us. Protect us. Why anonymity? We maintain our anonymity because we recognize that Latin has an immensely powerful network of associates who have the ability to damage our lively lives. Our main intention is to protect our identities, whether for us, for our families, or for people brave enough to come forward with their stories. The harsh reality is that many of these stories are of common knowledge for both the Latino administration and the larger community. Latin has routinely refused to hold the perpetrators of these acts of violence – both students and teachers – responsible for their actions. Hiding the names and faces of the perpetrators of this ongoing violence serves to preserve our mission. If you've ever attended latin school, you know exactly who these people are. We are taking direct action and will bring these perpetrators to justice in due date. Why, unlike most other similar accounts, comments are disabled in all posts? Our page and our messages are a space for the victims of Latin culture of prejudice and bigotry to find solidarity and healing in our collective trauma. Removing comments gives these stories the attention and respect they deserve, while giving viewers an opportunity for self-reflection. For those who want to create dialogue and discourse, you can share these stories on your own to start this conversation. The survivors of the Latin platform is not a space for white fragility, gas lighting or hostility. Our community is not responsible for its atonement. Load... What is your reaction to reports that many recent Graduates of Latin and other schools have received after your messages? Actions have consequences. One of the main catalysts of The Latin culture of marginalization and bigotry is the lack of repercussions for the authors. Latin allows the perpetrators of identity violence to continue to thrive within their social lives, excel in their courses, and enroll in renowned universities that allow them to continue this cycle of violence throughout their personal and professional careers. The only people who must be responsible for the consequences of this identity violence are those who commit them and the institution that perpetuates and continues to enable this behaviour. These incidents have been excused as ignorance, when in reality they are the result of an informed, malicious and violent system that subjugates anyone who exists outside the parameters of cis-hetero patriarchal white supremacy. In Mr Greer's most recent email to students titled Confronting Bias in Latin, he wrote: While we understand the urgency of sharing experiences, anonymous social media posts do not give us enough information to act as a response and begin a process to make the necessary change. Do you think the anonymous nature of this account diminishes your credibility? There is a direct action plan to disseminate people's names to the Latino administration. The large number of stories we have received should be enough to justify an investigation. We also want to highlight, once again, the fact that even when students have brought their complaints to the administration, they were dismissed or ignored, so these same students have become our platform to bring these truths to light. What are your thoughts on the administration's new bias report form and revised sexual misconduct policy? Do you see them one day replacing the current method of reporting discrimination and harassment? Why or why not? Unfortunately, our stories – no matter how serious – have never been enough to push the institution towards any kind of substantive and meaningful structural action. Many of these stories have been brought before the administration, and have repeatedly chosen to silence survivors rather than hold perpetrators accountable and commit to structural reform. As a collective we understand that Latin will never act voluntarily in support of its marginalized students until their reputation is severely affected and their facade of diversity and inclusion destroyed. Our current reporting method only exists because previous formal reports made within the school have never been properly resolved. The school may have finally created a formal process to report these types of particular incidents, if they do not commit to adequate structural reform that creates a Latin that actually affirms and values each then the problem will persist, and therefore we will stay. When it comes to the sexual misconduct policy, no matter how the school decides to handle discipline, these incidents should be prevented in the first place. Latin must commit, especially as an educational institution, to create an environment and culture where each student and teacher understands the nuances of consent and the severity of sexual abuse. We urge the school to consider a restorative justice approach, where the needs of victims are the highest priority. The school needs to ask what victims want to happen, what they need to heal themselves, and also subsidize/provide therapists who deal specifically with sexual trauma. The school must implement a comprehensive curriculum that develops an understanding of consent, which can be altered to be age-appropriate, but must be introduced all the way from Junior Kindergarten. We really hope that one day, there will be no need for our page any more because the school has changed for the better. Has the administration tried to contact you? They have not made an official attempt to contact us, however, we have received enquiries from teachers through private accounts. What do you think the future holds for both your group and the school in general in terms of diversity, inclusion and justice? We will continue our work as long as Latin continues to fail its marginalized students. We hope that this project will incite a significant commitment to improve the conditions of the Latin School and for the administration to establish tangible methods and practices of structural change. We have been working with current and former students and teachers to develop a set of demands based on our collective experiences and we will begin to address many of the structural problems of Latin. The school must make a commitment to fairness as much as the other principles it seeks to defend. Is there anything else you'd like to include in the piece? To our colleagues who have suffered from the inadequacy and inability of Latin to see our humanity, we know that we are in solidarity with you. We've been devastated and we don't stand this alone. Our quest for justice and structural reform, at its core, is driven not only by revenge, but by love. Love for our community, love for our friends, for our mentors, and for every person who has done and continues to make possible our survival in Latin. It's because we love you that we will fight for you. Because we love you, we're angry. Because Latin made us known that we have no one else, but one another. We never deserved to make ourselves feel like we don't care. We've always cared. Although nothing will change what has already happened, we hope that the survivors can find consolation in knowing that they have been heard. We pray you can heal and that your lives are abundant with joy, triumph, prosperity, and pride in who you are and have not yet become. Be.