



Michael Hunter, Principal
Lyman High School
865 S. Ronald Reagan Blvd.
Longwood, FL 32750

May 26, 2023

Dear Principal Hunter,

On behalf of the Student Press Law Center, I am writing to thank you for your support of the Lyman High School *Greyhound* yearbook staff and for your continued respect for their editorial freedom and yearbook content. As the nation's leading experts on student media law and student press freedom, SPLC was thrilled to honor the *Greyhound* this past fall with SPLC's inaugural Student Press Freedom Award, but even happier to see that the *Greyhound* staff is trusted to make their own editorial decisions and record the complete story of the Lyman High School community.

Student media is about telling the stories of the student body, in all its forms, and learning the power and impact of journalism. The *Greyhound* staff — with the support of you, adviser Danielle Pomerantz, and others — have shown remarkable courage and dedication in seeking out and memorializing the full Lyman High School experience. They have also exemplified how to manage criticism and censorship and to stand by their decisions. They can do this because of your support. Many student journalists are censored in deference to community backlash, and they never learn how to manage or rebound from criticism. The *Greyhound* staff is lucky to learn these lessons with your support, and they are more prepared for the post-school world because you have trusted them. This is what true leadership — and a real-life civics education lesson — looks like, and we hope many other schools will follow your example.

This is especially meaningful for me, as the parent of a Lyman High School graduate. I am proud to have been a member of the community then, and am proud now to see the *Greyhound* staff seek out and reflect the experience of the entire Lyman student body — both the experiences everyone wants to remember, and the experiences some may not know enough about.

We look forward to the day when Seminole County Public Schools will stand in full support of SCPS student media and eliminate the burdensome and overbroad prior review policy that telegraphs distrust of student journalists and their work. We remain eager to work with the school district on that effort, and are available to you and your students at any time.



Thank you for your support of Lyman High School's student journalists, and all you do for the Lyman High School community.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Green
Executive Director

cc: Superintendent Serita Beamon
School Board of Seminole County Public Schools