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The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism found that anti-Asian hate crimes reported to police rose 149% between 2019 and 2020.
- Politifact.com

Asian HATE CRIMES IN ROOSEVELT

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In recent months, the amount of attacks directed towards people of Asian descent all over the country has skyrocketed. 3.22% of students and 2.5% of staff members at Theodore Roosevelt High School identify as being Asian; so, what is Roosevelt doing to support Asian people during this time?

In response to the atrocious attacks against Asian people, Des Moines Public School signs have displayed the message "Stop Asian Hate". This message is strategically placed in front of every DMPS

school to provide awareness and show DMPS support that stands with Asian people during this time but what is behind the sign? At Roosevelt, PA announcements that voice where Roosevelt stands regarding the Asian Hate crimes can be heard. Roosevelt has also been more intentional when communicating with their stakeholders in the community about what they stand for and what they believe in.

"As a society, we must take the time to listen and learn about each other's differences, because it's our differences that make this world great. We must also think for ourselves, be our own people, and not allow crazy conspiracy theories to drive our actions. So much hate in this world is created by anonymous, evil people who sit behind their computer screen or cell phone and sell hate to the world and our youth. But logical, kind and moral people can and should see through that evil and know what is right and wrong, and then act in a way that is not criminal or hurtful to others. I've always said that the "kindest person in the room always wins," said Kevin

Biggs, Roosevelt principal while Asian hate crimes are currently increasing in numbers, they have always happened behind the shadows. Ellie Chungath, a ninth grader at Roosevelt who identifies as being South Asian and White is "shocked but not surprised" about the recent events. Between 2019 and 2020, The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University found hate crimes against Asian Americans spiked 149%. Many Americans are very impressionable and while not explicitly said in The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism study, after the former president Donald Trump used the terms "China Virus" and "Kung Flu" the study found that Google searches with similar racist terms increased significantly.

Loan Nguyen, teacher, and director of forensics at Roosevelt who also identifies as being Vietnamese American, brings up a great point.

"Words have been said, but actions mean more" said Nguyen. If looking to support the Asian community, simply not being prejudiced against Asians is

"There has been increasing support and hate in America for many years, and it has been amplified in quarantine and with the pandemic. I also get a bit of déjà vu because Asian hate is not new, this cycle appears in different forms throughout history", -Chungath

not enough. There are ways to be helpful and supportive while not overshadowing the voices of victims.

"There is a long history, often unknown or forgotten, of anti-Asian violence that stems from imperialism, colonization, and white supremacy. The attacks in response to COVID are just adding to the pile of historical anti-Asian attacks that stem from fear. Whether slurs,

racist remarks, or threats of violence, Asian people often experience microaggressions to overt acts of racism because we look and can sound different. It's hard to speak to all Asian experiences since there's well over forty ethnicities and cultures that can be lumped in under "Asian" but as a South East Vietnamese Asian I've definitely experienced micro and macro aggressions!

I think what allies can do is use their English-speaking privileges to help individuals in the community where English is a barrier, and use other privileges to simply advocate and support the Asian community in Des Moines" said Nguyen

As with most things, there is strength in numbers.

The more support Asians have, the more likely changes will be made. For more information about how to help, The Chinese Association of Iowa, the Korean Cultural Center of Iowa, and many more organizations dedicated to supporting Asian people in Iowa are always willing to educate and provide people with opportunities that benefit the Asian population in Iowa.