stronger TOGETHER

students lead walkout on Nov. 30 to combat racism

tudents walked out of South on Nov. 30 in a black student at Shawnee Mission East. According to The because I'm scared," he said. Kansas City Star and video released by various media outlets, a black female student is always right to do what's was in a verbal argument with a white student, after another white student had called another black student a slave. After that exchange ended, a white male student suddenly walked over to the black student, yelling the N-word, pushing and punching demonstration. At 11 a.m., the the student repeatedly, before administration announced the district-wide. the other student began punching back. East students Students gathered in the walked out on Monday to show hall of fame hallway and support for the student who walked toward the football was attacked and protest their stadium and around the administration's response to track. Hundreds of students the situation.

The walkout at South was primarily organized by senior Ace Cofield. Cofield met with principal **Todd Dain** to propose the walkout.

"Dr. Dain and I have had previous conversations about racial tensions and racial issues within our school." Cofield said. "I've always been open to talking to administration about those things.

As a Black student, showing Harris said. "I went to the support was especially emphasized the importance of just wrote our feelings on the

there is pushback.

"I don't ever want to be the person that doesn't speak up "Silence is enabling racism. Silence is not okay. The time

With the administration's support, the walkout was scheduled for the end of seminar on Nov. 30. A group of about 20 students gathered during late start that morning at Shawnee Mission East, to make posters for the walkout over the intercom participated, many holding posters they had made. Some signs read "Justice for Brev." the student who was attacked, similar incident happened and and Inclusion efforts in the while others read "Stop

Truth" in block letters. Senior **Taran White** and junior **Ava Harris** helped Cofield organize the poster-

Racism" and "Can't Hide the

"I DM'd him and I was like, 'Hey, if you need help with anything you let me know," Dollar Tree the night before and got supplies, and we

standing up for others, even if boards and then held them at stay encouraging, root each

supporting Brey," junior **Aniyia** you is a different color than Miller said as she walked alongside a group of friends. "We are trying to ensure there is justice for what happened. This means a lot to me as a black woman, because it hurts that my people are being called the N-word and being

While the attack occurred students expressed the need for change at South and

"Hopefully, the administrators will actually start to listen to the students. instead of ignoring them and sweeping it under the rug and being afraid of confrontation," iunior Aianna Johnson said. Johnson explained that it would not be surprising if a that incidents of racism are common at South.

After students circled the gathered near the West stands Hubbard said. "They have of the stadium to listen to Cofield speak. Those with signs held them up in front of the stands, facing the crowd of district. What I saw on that students who had walked out. video is NOT who we are, and

"Change is in order. Change has to come." at South is we stay positive

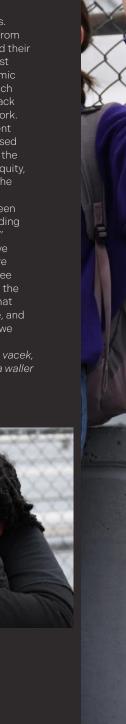
other on. It does not matter you, a different religion than vou: stand up for them, have their backs, because we're all Raiders—all of us."

Cofield also encouraged students to voice their opinions at the SMSD Board of Education meeting on Monday,

Students then returned to the building to attend their fourth-hour classes. That evening, students from across the district voiced their concerns during a protest at the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA), which was organized by the Black Student Solidarity Network. On Friday, Superintendent Michelle Hubbard released a statement addressing the incident and Diversity. Equity

"Our students have been vocal this week in reminding spoken loudly, and we are listening, both at Shawnee Mission East and across the we must do better. And we

> story by eirc vacek, areta waller







my good friends and [I participated believed in.

> everybody happened at that it's not a



students during the walkout. Seay peaceful protest. photo by georgia

Standing with pride, senior K Watson and sophmore Alandra Branham hold their signs high while participating in the walkout on Nov. 30. Watson and Branham joined the peaceful protest to stand up for what they believe in. photo by georgia

Arm in arm, senior Taran White and junior Ava Harris tood holding their sign before the crowd while senior **Ace Cofield** gave a speech from the top of the bleachers on November 30. So many people came to make the signs; we didn't exspect photo by georgia mccabe

Holding up her sign, junior Aniyia Miller attends the SM Fast student, Miller and hundreds of other students attended the walkout or



Embracing one another, senior Emily Willhite and walkout for SM East student Brey on Nov. 30. "I was I was happy because thought It went really well and I

