



KINNELON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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James J. Opiekun
Superintendent

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The week of October 20-25 has been designated Safe Schools Week. The purpose of this week is for all schools in New Jersey to focus on the ongoing issues of school bullying and student-to-student harassment as well as other issues connected with school violence and vandalism.

We continue to review and update our emergency and crisis plans at the building level. In order to create a better plan we received a Readiness Emergency Management Schools grant award of \$99,000 from the federal government that will fund a consultant to review our plans and provide training for our staff. Included in this grant is the purchase of Lobby Guard machines that will check and issue visitor passes at all of our schools.

There is an ongoing effort to address issues that can contribute to violence and vandalism. This concern is intensified during Safe Schools Week as schools devote increased time to programs, activities and articulation sessions that contribute to a well-defined understanding of the shared responsibilities of the school community. This year, with the support of Rutgers University, we are implementing in each school a program called Developing Safe and Civil Schools. The DSAC team from Rutgers is working with our staff in analyzing and improving our programs and using feedback from our community in planning for future goals.

Kiel School

Character of the Month:

A character trait is high- lighted each month with the emphasis on acceptance and understanding of differences.

Stonybrook School

Full Value Character Education School

Stonybrook School has committed to the Project Adventure character education approach. The cornerstone of this model is teaching students to value each other.

DARE Program

Stonybrook School works closely with the Kinnelon Police Department in supporting Drug Abuse Resistance Education with a ceremony each year for fifth graders.

Pearl R. Miller School

Pillars of Character- Pearl R. Miller School administrators, through daily announcements, emphasized charter traits that lead to sound moral development and the ability to avoid violent actions.

Resolve Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP) - Resolve Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP) - Throughout the district during Violence Awareness Week, RCCP teachers introduced instructional scenarios that cultivate strategies for de-escalating confrontation and embracing diversity.

Red Ribbon Activities- Working with the Kinnelon Municipal Drug Alliance an assortment of anti-drug and anti-alcohol programs that range from signing a pledge against drug/alcohol use, poster contests to peer-to-peer dramatizations.

Kinnelon High School

Kinnelon High School is dedicated to maintaining a safe environment for its students. The staff and administration work collaboratively to emphasize the importance of responsible decision making, maintaining a healthy life-style, and developing honorable character and leadership traits in our students.

Kinnelon High School Honor Code has been implemented this year. The Honor Code fosters ethical decisions and respectful interaction with all members of the high school community. You can see the Honor Code on line in our student handbook.

Fully understanding that enforcement is a key to safety, we have been working with the Kinnelon Police Department and Morris County Prosecutors Office. Over the past several years, they have conducted unannounced K9 sweeps at both Kinnelon High School and Pearl R. Miller Middle School. Please remember that as stated in Board policy there is no expectation to private storage in our schools and within legal guidelines all areas in our facility, as well as our students are subject to search when warranted. Violation of our substance/ alcohol policy can lead to progressive consequences including loss of participation in activities or revocation of parking.

In closing, please watch for announcements from our **SafetyNet Program**. This concept is supported by our Mayor and Council, Kinnelon Police Department, KAMELOT, Kinnelon Butler Optimist Club and local clergy. Among the topics covered:

Pedestrian, Moped and Bicycle Safety
Internet Safety
Substance and Alcohol Abuse
Wellness and Nutrition
Emergency and Crisis Preparedness
Drivers Ed/Seat Belt Safety

Watch for notices about our efforts to continue to educate our school community with workshops and assemblies throughout the school year.

Sincerely,



James J. Opiekun
Superintendent of Schools