

December 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing this letter to share information about work that is occurring within the District to support the social and emotional learning of our students. To help you understand what is involved in social and emotional learning, we have prepared the enclosed summary. The following will briefly outline the reason that we are undertaking these efforts.

In the District, all of our K-12 students are engaged in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, where we are working to reduce bullying issues, prevent the development of new issues, and support students in better peer relations at school. You may also have heard your child or children talk about the Wildcats Ways, which is a positive behavioral reinforcement effort that assists students in making good choices. These are examples of efforts that occur for all students to assist in establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and making responsible decisions.

Like many other school districts, we have seen an increase in the need for behavioral support at both the elementary and secondary levels that goes beyond this prevention level, where more involved interventions are needed to support children. Children who present with behavioral issues need our support in the same way as students who struggle academically. However, behavioral issues tend to involve other students in a way that is different from academic needs.

There are often questions about what is occurring to support staff and students when these situations occur. As parents, you understand that staff are only able to discuss your child or children with you as we have ethical and legal obligations related to the confidentiality of student information. However, please know that we take our educational environment very seriously and are continually working to find resources and supports for all of our students and staff. This letter and enclosure are intended to provide you with an understanding of the work that has and will occur to support all of our learners in their academic and social/emotional growth.

Please contact me at any time that you have a question about these efforts.

Sincerely,

Deborah Leh, Ed.D.
Superintendent