



Brooklyn Middle School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

At Brooklyn Middle School we're committed to supporting and maintaining an environment where students, staff, and families feel safe, included, and welcome. One of the steps we take to help ensure that we build and support a positive, healthy culture of respect is providing every student the research-based Second Step Program taught through the health and physical education department.

There are multiple themes that are interwoven throughout the program:

- *Empathy and Communication
- *Perspective Taking
- *Bullying Prevention
- *Emotion Management
- *Coping with Stress
- *Problem Solving, Decision Making, and Goal Setting
- *Substance Abuse Prevention

The lessons encompass a variety of topics including the equal opportunity and protection afforded under Title IX. We recognize that some sensitive issues may arise as these complex topics are addressed. Key among the issues and topics covered is anti-bullying, anti-harassment, and the negative impact that mean behavior, bullying and harassing can have on individuals, groups, and the school culture.

An important aspect of the anti-bullying component is to ensure that students know they are entitled to be treated and are expected to treat others with respect regardless of gender, economic status, race, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, etc. The program encourages students to talk to adults (staff and families) regarding unfair or mean treatment, harassment, or self-harm, including suicide.

The goal of this anti-bullying program is to focus on students' social, emotional, and personal well being, promoting a safe environment for all students within the school community. Thank you for your continued support of our program.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ferragatta and Jacob Gadowski
Health and Physical Education Teachers