

West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School District



2017-2018 Violence and Vandalism Report

Mission Statement

Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character and love of learning.

Week of Respect Activities

October 1-5, 2018

- The week of October 1 to October 5 was designated as the **Week of Respect** in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. School districts throughout the state are required to observe the week by providing age appropriate instruction focusing on preventing **Harassment, Intimation or Bullying**.

Elementary Activities

Dutch Neck

- **Morning Announcements** - The theme of Respect will be highlighted each morning during announcements.
- **Monday, October 1st - World Bullying Prevention Day - WEAR BLUE TODAY** (Students and Staff). We will be joining schools across the nation as we all try to put a stop to bullying.
- **Tuesday, October 2nd - Kick Off our Kindness Tree project** - It's time to start filling up our kindness tree for the 2018-19 school year. Students can fill out a kind act that was done for them and put it in the box outside Mrs. Dunne's door. One kind act will be read during morning announcements each day and we will start filling up our Kindness tree outside of the gym.
- **Wednesday, October 3rd - Sock It To Bullying** - Let's all show our support for the Anti-Bullying movement by wearing crazy, colorful, and/or fun socks today!
- **Thursday, October 4th - Read a Story that shows respect** - Teachers may pick something from the list provided to encourage a classroom discussion about respectful behavior.
- **Friday, October 5th - I'm Too Bright to Bully - WEAR BRIGHT COLORS!** Staff will be wearing pink for Breast Cancer awareness today.

Elementary Activities

MAURICE HAWK SCHOOL

- Our daily announcement will focus specifically on respect for others.
- We will have daily themes related to bring respectful:

Monday- ***“Orange” you glad we’re a bully free school*** - Wear orange to school

Tuesday- ***Team up against bullying*** - Wear team jerseys or uniforms

Wednesday- ***I’m too bright to bully*** - Wear bright colors

Thursday- ***Sock it to bullying*** - Wear crazy or mismatched socks

Friday- **Hats off to being respectful** – wear a hat to school

- Win-Win guideline posters will be placed in every classroom and in the hallways of Hawk School.
- Morning Meetings will include review of Win-Win guidelines and discussion.
- Each class will recite and sign an anti-bullying pledge.
- The school counselor will continue to present lessons concentrated on conflict resolution, friendship and acceptance.
- Grade level anti-bullying presentations will have been presented to all students by this week with a focus on being kind, respectful and making good choices.
- Students will show respect for each other when they participate in teambuilding activities on Field Day.

Elementary Activities

Town Center

- Daily announcements over loudspeaker or Gator News about Respect
Anti-Bullying Pledge - review pledge and create a collage of student handprints to signify students taking the pledge
- “Superhero Training Program:” Student challenges to complete respectful activities. Rolling out the idea during Week of Respect and will continue throughout school year. Each month’s challenge will correlate with the month’s character theme
- Teacher read-alouds on respect
- Guidance lessons on respect/acceptance/empathy during the month of October
- Morning Meeting PowerPoint with daily activities/discussions
 - Monday: “Blue Shirt Day” World Day of Bullying Prevention
 - Tuesday: “Respect Yourself”
 - Wednesday: Respect Others
 - Thursday: --
 - Friday: Respect in School. Wear school colors or Gator Gear
- Schoolwide Meeting - theme of respect interwoven through activities

Elementary Activities

Wicoff School

The character education theme for September was **Teamwork** and the theme for October is **Respect**. These themes will be incorporated throughout lesson plans, counselor visits and school wide activities.

Wicoff will participate in **National Walk Your Child to School Day** on October 3rd in coordination with the Plainsboro Police Department. The students will make posters with safety tips which will be displayed along the route of the walk. Staff will emphasize **respect for community members** and **working together** during this activity.

Wake Up Wicoff – Students will make weekly announcements during Wicoff's news program incorporating **quotes about respect**.

We will kick-off our **Bus Buddies Program** (bus safety & respecting each other on the bus).

Morning meetings will be initiated with various topics including **respect & kindness**.

The guidance counselor will teach **anti-bullying lessons** in each of the classrooms. The focus will be on **respecting each other and spreading kindness**. This is a follow-up to the grade level anti-bullying presentations facilitated by the principal and guidance counselor on September 14th. .

Review ideas for Week of Respect with staff at the faculty meeting on Oct. 1st.

The principal and counselor will present to the PTA on Oct. 3rd. The topic will be **The Special Programs that help to meet the Social/Emotional Needs of our Students**. Respect, teamwork, kindness and cooperation will be emphasized in all programs discussed. The HIB Parent powerpoint will also be reviewed with the parents.

Elementary Activities

Millstone River School

- Counselors will visit classrooms to facilitate a lesson focusing on respect for self and others . A focus on “choose kindness” will be facilitated building-wide using the children’s book, “We’re All Wonders” by R. J Palacio.
- Respect quotes will be read each day during the morning announcements. Teachers are encouraged to discuss the daily quote with their class.
- Students will sign a class Friendship and pledge. Teachers are encouraged to post the pledge(s) in the classroom.
- Teachers are provided two classroom lessons and a list of 35 follow-up respect activities for use in the classroom and during daily Morning Meeting discussions.
- Teachers are provided an annotated “Respect” bibliography of books available in our Media Center.

Village School

- Guidance lessons focused on problem-solving
- Principal/assistant principal visiting classrooms for read alouds
- School spirit day - Friday 10/5 - “superheroes of kindness”
- The question of the week will target responsible behaviors: “Think about what you could do today to feel responsible. Where might you be? What would you be doing? Try to visualize yourself in that place.”
- Mindfulness activities

Middle School Activities

Community Middle School

Everyday: Announcements were made daily with anti-bullying quotes each day along with reminders of activities.

Monday 10/1: Grade Level Assemblies – “If Not Me, Then Who...” and #BlueUp (World Day of Bullying Prevention)

Objective: Kick off of Week of Respect – to create awareness, improve school climate and culture, and promote making good choices

Activity: A representative from the Trevor Manion Foundation will present the “If Not Me, Then Who...” assembly to the 6th and 7th graders. An additional assembly will be presented to the 8th graders promoting the messages of the week. All students and staff will also wear blue for World Day of Bullying Prevention.

Tuesday 10/2: Blue Pinky Promise

Objective: To raise awareness and pinky promise to stand up against bullying

Activity: During lunch, Ms. E and student volunteers will set up a table in Commons where students and staff to paint their pinky nails blue to symbolize a pinky promise to take a stand against bullying.

Wednesday 10/3: Kindness Sticks Challenge

Objective: Spread messages of kindness, inclusivity, and support throughout the entire CMS community.

Activity: Students and staff will be encouraged to write and pass along two or more messages of kindness and support on sticky notes to their peers. Sticky notes can be placed on desks, tables, or handed to an individual directly. The sticky notes can be kept by the individual who received it or passed along to another person. At least 2 sticky notes will be provided to students during their homerooms or during lunch in the Commons if needed.

Thursday 10/4: 2NDFloor Chalk It Up Project

Objective: Share messages of hope and support, and promote that help is always available.

Activity: Student will be invited during their recess period to write and draw positive messages/symbols with chalk on the sidewalks in front of the school with Ms. E. The phone number of the 2NDFloor Hotline will also be displayed in the Commons, hallways, and sidewalks. ***if it is raining outside, students will write/draw on a couple large sheets of paper that will be displayed in the Commons***

Friday 10/5: Anti-Bullying Pledge

Objective: To wrap up the week with a culminating event where TEAM community takes the pledge against bullying.

Activity: During lunch, all students and staff are invited to sign an anti-bullying pledge in the Commons. All signed pledges will be displayed on the bulletin board promoting the week’s activities.

Middle School Activities

Grover Middle School

Week of Respect Announcements:

- **Monday 10/1:** Today Grover stands against bullying, showing unity by wearing blue! Look for the table in lunch where you can sign the “Pinky Promise” and get a pinky nail painted blue to signify we stand together against unkind behavior!
Tomorrow is Patriotic Day: Wear Red, White and Blue!
- **Tuesday 10/2:** Today Grover stands united to show the respect we have for our country where we are free to express ourselves! Let’s rise above any divisive news and show that we stand together at Grover!
Tomorrow is Wellness Wednesday: Wear Green!
- **Wednesday 10/3:** Today is Wellness Wednesday. Take one action to improve your physical and/or emotional well-being. Breathe! Be mindful. Go for a walk. Meditate. Dance! Sing! Play with abandon! Laugh (not at anyone’s expense). Be kind to yourself!
Tomorrow is Diversity Rainbow Day! Dress in rainbows of color, tie-dye, or mixed and matched clothes and patterns!
- **Thursday 10/4:** Today we wear a rainbow of colors to illustrate the diversity of race, culture, religion, shape, size and self-expression within our school community. Let’s celebrate that each of us is unique, and contributes something special!
- To honor GLSEN’s “Ally Day”, we invite you to visit the table in the cafeteria during lunch to sign the “Ally Pledge” to keep our school safe for LGBTQ students. All who sign will receive a rainbow ribbon to wear. Let’s keep Grover safe, supportive and welcoming for all students!
- Tomorrow: break out your team attire, Jag wear, and dress in black and gold or Jag spots to show school spirit and gratitude for Grover!
- **Friday 10/5:** Today ends the official “Week of Respect,” but let’s pledge to continue being mindful to be accepting, kind, and supportive to one another. We wear school colors to demonstrate our pride in our school and our spirit as “Team Grover.” Going forward, be mindful of the character traits on the pillars, and strive to be a good citizen of our school and a good friend. Make someone’s day today, and every day!

High School Activities

High School North

Announcements

Monday - This week is the Week of Respect in New Jersey.

- *“Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for other guides our manners.”*

Tuesday - Today's quote is

- *“It is not our purpose to become each other; it is to recognize each other, to learn to see the other and honor him for what he is”*

Wednesday - Today's quote is

- *“When you are content to be simply yourself and don't compare or compete, everybody will respect you”*

Thursday - Today's quote is

- *“Try to leave the Earth a better place than when you arrived”*

Friday - Today's quote is

- *“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say”*

Peer Group discussions

- How to recognize when someone is being mistreated
- When to get involved
- When to reach out for help

High School Activities

High School South

AM Announcements

Monday:

- “Show respect even to people who don’t deserve it; not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours”

Tuesday:

- “I firmly believe that respect is a lot more important, and a lot greater, than popularity”
–Julius Erving
**Make someone’s day today and treat them with kindness and respect

Wednesday

- “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”
– Maya Angelou
**Make someone’s day today and reach out to a fellow pirate who might be having a tough time

Thursday

- “To be one, to be united is a great thing. But to respect the right to be different is maybe even greater”
**Make someone’s day today and invite someone new to sit at lunch with you

Friday

- “I am not concerned with your liking or disliking me...All I ask is that you respect me as a human being”
– Jackie Robinson
**Make someone’s day today and give a sincere compliment

Definition of HIB

“Any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory [handicap] disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function [or], on a school bus, or off school grounds as provided for in section 16 of P.L.2010, CHAPTER 122, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students“

Evidence of HIB:

The student knowingly engaged in racist, homophobic, or other stereotyping behavior with the specific objective of hurting, intimidating or harassing another student

The student knowingly engaged in behavior with the specific objective of hurting, intimidating, or harassing another student

The student knowingly engaged in harassing, intimidating, or bullying behavior but was not aware of the potential negative impact on the victim

The student unknowingly engaged in harassing, intimidating, or bullying behavior and had no awareness of the potential negative impact on the victim

The student was “showing off” with friends or reacting to a personal (emotional) situation, and the victim was arbitrarily and impulsively targeted

The student engaged in harassing, intimidating, or bullying behavior in direct response to a real or imagined threat initiated by the other student

The student engaged in behavior that may be considered inappropriate, rude, disrespectful, or unkind, but the behavior does not violate school HIB guidelines

The student did not engage in any behavior which meets the definition of HIB. Student has been cleared of any actionable offense.

The student was a victim of an HIB incident.
OR The student was not a victim of an HIB incident.

Factual Findings

Intentional (with hate speech) and designed to harass, intimidate, or bully

- Intentional (without hate speech) and designed to Harass, intimidate or bully

Intentional, but not designed to harass, intimidate or bully

Unintentional

Unrelated

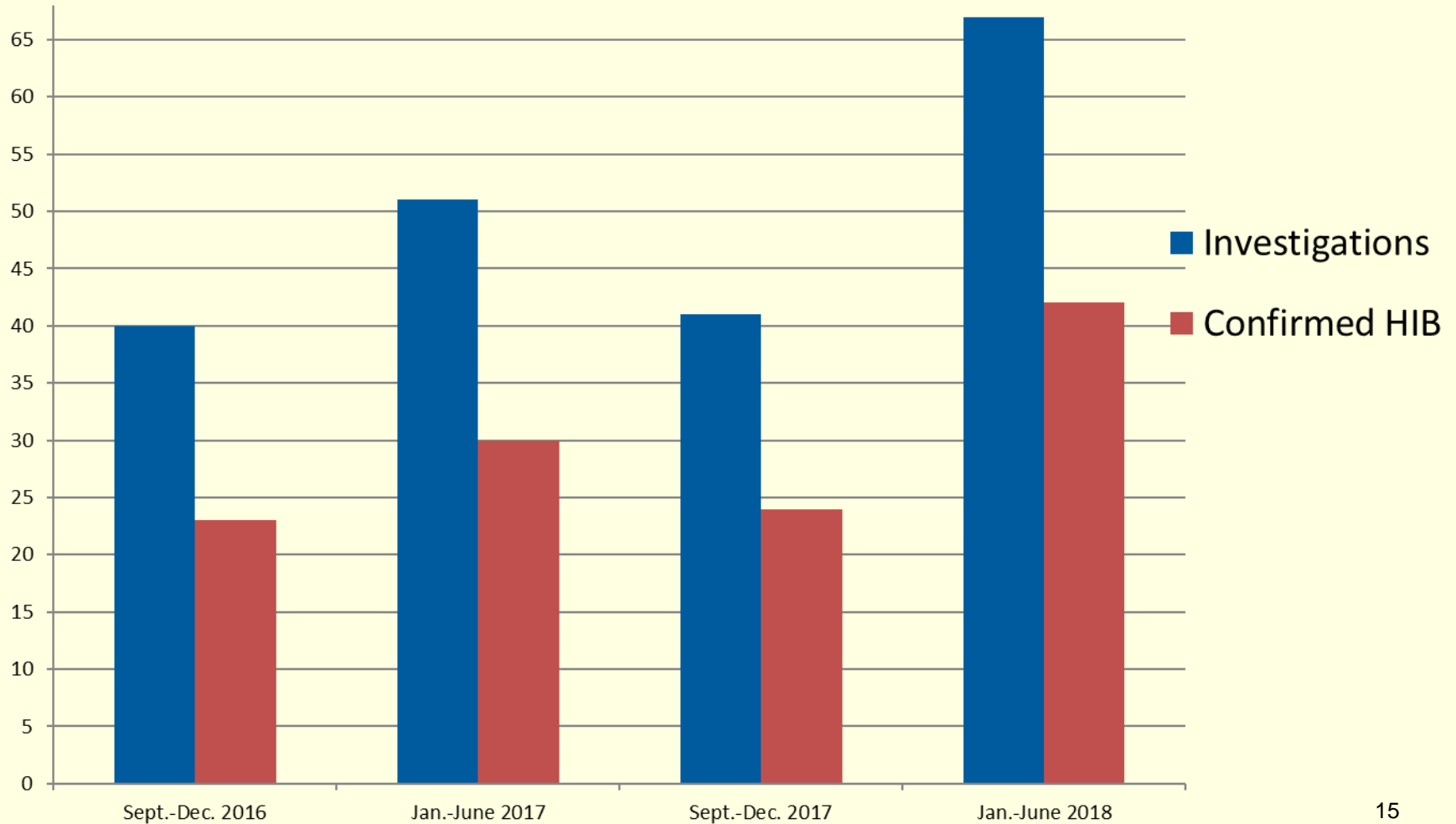
Self-Defense / Retaliation

Non-Actionable HIB

Non-HIB

HIB-Victim

WW-P Investigations/ Confirmed HIB 2016-2017 vs. 2017-2018



HIB: Patterns & Trends

- Unstructured Activities
- Minimally Supervised Settings
- Common Distinguishing Characteristics:
Disability, Physical Appearance, Race, Religion,
Sexual Orientation
- Increase in Investigations
- Incidents Peak in Middle School
- Increase in Parent Reporting
- Decrease in Social Media Incidents

Count of Incidents by Reporting Category

	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>
HIB	51	71
Violence	23	27
Vandalism	6	4
Weapons	0	1
Substance abuse	10	18
Total	90	121

Total incidents - Violence, Vandalism, Substances, Weapons, HIB Confirmed

Violence - Assault, Fight, Kidnapping, Robbery/Extortion, Sexual Assault, Sexual Contact, Threat/Simple, Threat/Criminal

Vandalism - Arson, Computer Trespass, Damage to Property, False Public Alarm, Theft, Trespass

Incident category totals may differ from total incidents due to multiple offenses selected for one incident.

Incident Category Totals by School

(Middle Schools & High Schools)

School Name	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse
Middle Schools	12	1	1	0
High Schools	7	1	0	18
Total	19	2	1	18

*Does not include elementary

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

WICOFF

- The **Wicoff Crisis Action Team** met to review and update all safety drill plans and procedures. Practice drills will take place throughout the school year. This includes lockdowns, active shooter, bomb threat, and evacuation drills.
- **Developmental guidance lessons** will be taught by the counselor throughout the kindergarten through third grade classrooms. Morning meetings will be initiated and various topics will be included such as **peacemaking skills and conflict resolution skills**.
- Review ideas for **School Violence Awareness Week with staff** at the faculty meeting on Oct. 1st.

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

Town Center

- Daily announcements over loudspeaker or Gator News about Peacemaking
- Classroom read-alouds
- Guidance lessons on respect/acceptance/empathy during the month of October
- Morning Meeting discussion slideshow on peacemaking

Maurice Hawk

- In an ongoing effort to create a conflict free environment, the staff uses Responsive Classroom techniques and reinforces peacemaking techniques with our students.
- We will have a Crisis Committee Meeting to discuss the effectiveness of our crisis plan, and to review our safety procedures.
- At our October morning shares, we will have staff members share responsive classroom techniques/strategies used in the classroom to prevent bullying and to promote a sense of community in the classroom and throughout the school
- The guidance counselor will continue to present classroom lessons on conflict resolution, anti-bullying, friendship, and acceptance.
- Our PTA supports assemblies with an anti-bullying message.
- We are hosting Bagel and Books for our staff and parents. Themes such as acceptance, diversity, respect and friendship will be featured.
- We will have a School Safety Team meeting to discuss school climate.

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

Dutch Neck

- Dutch Neck School will continue to focus on the character theme of Respect throughout October.
- Morning announcements will focus on support students in developing conflict resolution skills.
- Classroom teachers will continue to hold morning meetings and utilize Responsive Classroom techniques to further develop appropriate social skills and a sense of community.
- The school counselor will teach conflict resolution and problem-solving skills during her class lessons. This will include reminders to use DEBUG strategies that Dutch neck student use to solve problems peacefully with friends.
- The assistant principal continues to work with lunch aides to familiarize them with Responsive Classroom techniques.
- We met with students to promote “Bucket Filling”, focusing on positive behavior and doing kind deeds for others.

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

Village

- Guidance lessons focused on problem-solving
- Principal/assistant principal visiting classrooms for read alouds
- The question of the week will target helpful behaviors: “Think about what you could do today to feel helpful. Where might you be? What would you be doing? Try to visualize yourself in that place.”
- Mindfulness activities

Millstone River

- Continuation of Week of Respect lessons focusing on I Messages and Active Listening Responses as a respectful form of communication to resolve conflict
- Highlight Character Education theme this month of Citizenship which focuses on being a respectful member of our school community
- Establishment of group work focusing on managing stress and identifying various strategies to cope with uncomfortable feelings.
- Coffee with Counselors program to build community with parents
- Planning for Make a Difference Day Coat Drive (10/27) focusing on respect and caring of our larger community

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

Community Middle School (6-8)

All Week - Morning announcements will be made with quotes reflecting themes of peace and anti-violence, and a bulletin board will be decorated with a School Violence Prevention theme

Monday, 10-15: *#keepCMSsafe Photo booth*

- During lunch, students and staff are welcome to get their picture taken in the Commons with the #keepCMSsafe pledge picture frame

Monday, 10-15/Tuesday, 10-16: *Plainsboro Police Play*

- Members of the Plainsboro Police Department will be present during all lunch/recess periods to play basketball and interact with the students
- All student will be encouraged to ask the police officers about their work in the community, school safety, and how to help prevent school violence

Wednesday, 10-17: *Wear Purple/Peace signs*

- All students and staff will be encouraged to wear purple and/or peace signs, the symbolic color/symbol for peace and anti-violence.

Grover Middle School (6-8)

- GSA & Bystander cast will facilitate activities during recess with a focus on kindness and acceptance. (Spread the love chalking, Mindful coloring, etc.,
- “Pawsitivity is contagious” message board- students will write positive messages on pawprints for display on the bulletin board.
- Daily announcements will be read to focus on peaceful resolution to conflict, and mindfulness.
- ABS will teach lessons in 6th grade cycle on relevant topic based on the core competencies of the CASEL framework.

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

High School South (9-12)

Monday:

- “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite”
- Nelson Mandela

Tuesday:

- “Be selective in your battles. Sometimes being at peace is better than being right”

Wednesday:

- “Compassionate people are geniuses in the art of living, more necessary to the dignity, security and joy of humanity than the discoverers of knowledge” - Albert Einstein

Thursday:

- “Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal” -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Friday:

- “Peace begins with a smile” - Mother Theresa

High School North (9-12)

- Announcements daily with quotes and a challenge similar to WoR
- Peer Leaders will also host a table at lunch where students can sign a banner that will read “Help shield away violence.”

Proactive Programs for Student Development

- School counselors/Anti-bullying Specialists
- Counseling Curriculum
- Student Assistance Counselors (6-12)
- Assembly Programs
- Peer leaders
- Character Education Programs
- Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care Specialists
- Many clubs and organizations will be promoting programs about aspects of students' social and emotional development

Current Administrative Focus

- Review & Revise Student Code of Conduct Annually
- Implementation of the State Mandated Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy
- Review of the District Crisis Plan
- Focus on Strategic Goals