



*Inspiring Minds
Empowering Achievement
Building Community*

GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ALAN B. GROVEMAN, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

October 19, 2017

Dear Parents:

The School Board, administration and PTA and SEPTA are very concerned regarding the issue of bullying and the need to ensure that all students receive an education in a safe and inviting environment. No child should ever be reluctant to come to school for fear of personal or emotional safety.

To this end, the School District administration together with the PTA have met to discuss concerns regarding the bullying of our children by their peers. The District has a great number of anti-bullying initiatives in place and spends countless hours in training staff to recognize and prevent such behaviors. Nonetheless, as recent incidents have shown, in spite of the resources applied, problems and issues still exist.

We are jointly attempting to further improve upon the resources and programs available to move toward the elimination of all forms of bullying in our schools as quickly as possible. This will include a review of the topics and structure of Home Base period at the Middle School, staff training by specialists in children's mental health, the possible use of anonymous reporting procedures, enhanced communication between the District and Community, and ongoing dialogue with the PTA/SEPTA. The District safety initiative this summer has also resulted in an increase in the number and distribution of security cameras.

Parent help in our endeavor is paramount. Talk with your children regularly not just about their experiences, but also about those of their friends. Learn about their friends and how they are getting on. Report any concerns to the teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists or administrators. Frequently, bullying occurs on social media and is seen by peers but not available to school staff. Help us to help each other.

Within the next few weeks, the District will be instituting a Rumors Page on its website. Parents and residents can email in any rumor they have heard, and the rumor along with a response will be posted on the Rumor Page within 2 school days. No email addresses or names will ever be revealed. The District and PTAs will continue to meet at a building and district level in order to review any future issues and to continue to maintain our focus on student safety.

We thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Alan Groveman, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools