



# New Heights Middle School

Where Dreams Become Reality!

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Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Our school cares about our students. We want to make sure our school is a safe and positive place for students to learn. To do this, we will be using a unique combination of two well-known, effective, evidence-based programs: *Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports* and the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program*. We are doing this as part of a nationally sponsored research study and are very fortunate to have received funding to improve our school climate through this special pilot project.

*Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)* is an approach for supporting students' success using the strategy "Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible." Positive and respectful strategies for communication, school success, and coping with stresses, academic or behavioral, are taught to all students. In addition, for those needing ongoing support, an individual behavior plan is created.


The *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP)* is one of the best-known bullying prevention programs. The goals of *OBPP* are to reduce bullying problems and prevent new bullying problems from happening. The program, meant for all students, also works to make relationships better among students, not just those being bullied or those bullying others.

Parents and guardians play a key role in this combined effort. With *PBIS*, strategies learned at school are shared with parents who are encouraged to practice these positive behaviors at home.

With the *OBPP*, your child will be asked to tell an adult at school and at home if he or she is bullied or sees bullying. This should be taken seriously, as our school staff members are being trained to deal with bullying situations when we are told about them.

Parent meetings will be held to learn more about this combined initiative. Your participation is welcomed and encouraged. Having a safe school experience is something that all students should enjoy. Please call your child's teacher or me with any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Nikki Miller, M.Ed., GCDF  
Principal

