

Granby Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

Patricia A. Stevens
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We acknowledge and are deeply saddened by the recent tragedy in our neighboring community of South Hadley. Right after the tragedy we extended our sympathies and support to the high school. We are mindful that these terrible circumstances could happen anywhere; and we are reflecting on what we do here in our own school and community to try and prevent such tragedy.

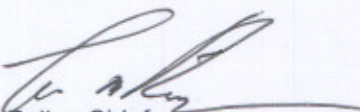
We think it is appropriate to inform and/or remind you of some of the preventive efforts and resources that exist here at the Junior/Senior High School:

- ⇒ Student Intervention Team: Every week, our guidance counselors together with administration, our school nurse, school psychologist, school social worker, 2 faculty members and school resource officer meet to identify, discuss and intervene with student and/or building related concerns, including bullying.
- ⇒ Violence Prevention and Education: We use various curricula and educational campaigns, K-12, to promote awareness and skill-building related to bullying and harassment, conflict resolution and healthy relationships. Often, we deliver these initiatives in partnership with community agencies i.e., River Valley Counseling, UMASS Everywoman's Center, Northwestern District Attorney's Office, and the Strategic Planning Initiative for Families and Youth (SPIFFY) to name a few.
- ⇒ S.O.S. (Signs of Suicide) Program: This curriculum is taught in our wellness department and teaches young people the signs of serious depression and suicide and empowers them to A.C.T. (Acknowledge, Care, Tell). In addition, we have recently concluded our "No Name-calling Initiative" throughout the school.
- ⇒ We have and continue to access the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, and other agencies, as it specifically relates to cyber-bullying and harassment.

If you would like more specific information about our prevention efforts, please contact Charlene Korza, School Social Worker at 467-7629.

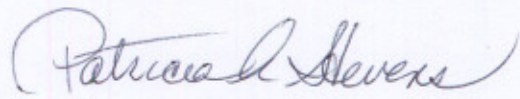
Of course, there is no such thing as one hundred percent prevention and so, we also have clear responsive policies and protocols around incidents of harassment and bullying. **We can only respond if we know there is a problem and as we encourage our students, we also encourage you as parents to alert us if ever you have a concern or problem with your own child or any child. It truly does take a village to protect our students. We cannot do this by ourselves.** We ask that you continue to communicate and support your children in enabling them to make the right decisions, as we all work together as resources for them. The websites of both the School Department (www.granbyschoolsma.org) and the Police Department (www.granbypd.org) should be accessed as well for timely updates.

Sincerely,



Police Chief

Sincerely,



Superintendent of Schools

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