



FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Greetings Kekionga families,

Across the United States, October has been designated as Anti-Bullying Month. As we work with students to help them understand the importance of a safe and healthy school environment, our Warrior staff helps educate and model the behaviors that make our students “Ready, Responsible, and Respectful.” Our guidance counselor, Ms. Gates, and school resource officer, Officer Smith, met with each grade level of students to share the results of the student survey and teach them how to both avoid bullying and harassment, as well as how to report it to adults in the building. Following the assembly, each student signed a pledge to state that bullying has no place in our school. We took the student pledges, along with photos of staff and students, and created bulletin boards showing our commitment to creating a caring school environment. Because our commitment to a safe and healthy school is a priority, we chose to make the first bulletin boards our visitors see to be those that address our efforts to eliminate bullying and harassment in our school.



During the month of October, we have begun to implement our Sources of Strength program, which brings a trained group of teachers and students together to show them that there are alternatives to self-harm and suicide when students encounter difficult and challenging times.



As part of our Sources of Strength campaign, students identified their “trusted adult” in our building, the one person they can go to if they need help or support. Our entire staff wore our

Kekionga Middle School

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Sources of Strength "HOPE" t-shirts to show our commitment to this important initiative.



Moving forward for the remainder of the year, we want all students, parents, and staff to understand that in addition to bullying, sexual harassment will not be tolerated in our building. Kekionga does not tolerate harassment on the basis of sex, which is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it adversely affects a student's education or creates a hostile or abusive education environment. We encourage any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment and any parent who believes that a child has been subjected to sexual harassment to report the incident(s). Students may do so by telling any trusted adult at Kekionga, or by reporting online via Let's Talk, and the administrative staff will document and investigate the complaint. Kekionga is committed to conducting prompt investigations of any type of bullying or harassment and will investigate every complaint within three days. Students and parents will be kept informed at every step of the process, whether or not harassment is substantiated. If the investigation is substantiated, appropriate discipline shall be administered, per the FWCS Code of Conduct, up to and including suspension or expulsion, and retaliation against the student who reported the harassment will not be tolerated.

Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations may be referred to:

Kathy Carr
Title IX Coordinator
1200 S. Clinton St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Kathy.Carr@fwcs.k12.in.us
(260) 467-2135

The United States Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
500 West Madison St., Suite 1475
Chicago, IL 60661

On behalf of our Warrior staff, I want to thank our Kekionga families for sending your children to our school. It is an honor to be entrusted with your students each day. I look forward to a great rest of the year and look forward to seeing all of you at Back to School Night on November 7th or 8th from 3-7pm.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Matt Schiebel, Principal
Kekionga Middle School
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