



Holley Central School District

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December 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This year, students in grades K-8 will be participating in a new curriculum on student safety lessons. The MBF Child/Teen Safety Matters program is a research-based curriculum used nationwide from the Monique Burr Foundation. The program teaches children to spot and respond to bullying, cyberbullying, child abuse, and digital dangers.

Students will receive two lessons in the month of January taught by a member of our mental health team. Facilitators have been trained on the program in collaboration with the Bivona Child Advocacy Center. We are excited for this partnership!

» **Why do we need this program – is there a problem here in Holley?** There is not a specific problem in our school district. However, the problems addressed in the curriculum, like bullying and abuse, exist in most schools. The goal is to prevent these problems before they happen.

» **What exactly is covered in the curriculum?** MBF Child Safety Matters covers personal safety, bullying, cyberbullying, all types of child abuse, digital abuse, and other digital dangers. It is designed for children and based on the latest research. The curriculum focuses on teaching children to rely on safe adults for support. Lessons are taught using child-friendly language, using fun games and activities, and take-home items are provided as reminders of the lessons. To learn more about the program, please visit: <https://www.mbfpreventioneducation.org/why-use-our-programs/mbf-child-safety-matters/>

» **How are Holley parents involved?** Parent involvement is key to the success of this program. Each lesson in the program includes materials to read and activities for parents to do with their children. Our district values the ongoing partnership that we share with our families.

» **Why do schools need to be involved in a prevention program?** Research shows, and our district agrees, that everyone benefits when children are safe. Children who are safe have higher grades in school, have better attendance, and enjoy healthier, happier, and more productive lives.

On December 21st at 5pm, we will be hosting a presentation via Zoom to share some more about this exciting new program and to answer any questions. The panel will consist of Brendan Keiser, Director of Teaching and Learning; Stefanie Szejbka, Manager of Community Education at Bivona Child Advocacy

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Center; and Wanda Farrell, School Guidance Counselor. If you are interested in attending, please register by emailing Brendan Keiser at bkeiser@holleycsd.org. Here is the Zoom information:

<https://E2CCB-GST.zoom.us/j/95252865459>

Meeting ID: 952 5286 5459

Passcode: 169356

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brendan Keiser, Director of Teaching and Learning
Karri Schiavone, Elementary School Principal
Sue Cory, Middle/High School Principal