Dear DCES Family,

I am excited to tell you that for the 2016-2017 school year, DCES will participate in Chicken Soup for the Soul Hallway Heroes: a literacy-based anti-bullying program. The goal of the program is to address the growing issues of bullying behavior by developing social-emotional skills through literacy and storytelling. The real-life stories we read and lessons we complete will teach students to understand themselves and their relationships with others, explore and value diverse perspectives, and develop empathy and compassion towards the self and others.

In each lesson, we will read a story from *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Be the Best You Can Be*, discuss the challenges the characters face and how they were overcome, and learn ways to apply the lesson in our own lives. While strengthening his or her reading and writing, each child will develop self-management, relationship, goal-setting and decision-making skills through engaging stories, class discussions, group activities, skill-based learning and personal reflective writing. Your child will learn the skills to address bullying situations and to create a positive environment around him or her.

An important element of this program is to practice these skills both inside the classroom, on playgrounds, online, in our communities, and at home. Please discuss what he or she is learning in the program and help implement the lessons in his or her daily life.

More information about the program is available on the Family Portal at [http://chickensoup.com/hallwayheroes. If interested in the online family subscription, enter](http://chickensoup.com/hallwayheroes.%20%20If%20interested%20in%20the%20online%20family%20subscription%2C%20enter) this code when prompted for the subsidized online subscription: **f4e5a** .

Together, we will create heroes in the hallways, classrooms, playgrounds, homes, online, and in our communities! Please be in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

 Sincerely,

 Jenny Solomon