



Mary G. Montgomery High School
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Joe Toomey
Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In 2015 the Alabama legislature passed Erin's Law, which mandates that each school system provide a personal safety curriculum. Age appropriate sexual abuse awareness and prevention education in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve is required to be implemented immediately. Although the Mobile County Public School System has had a Personal Safety Curriculum in place for the past twenty- five years, in response to the Alabama Legislature's passage of Erin's Law (HB197) in July 2015, a committee has worked diligently to revise and update the current curriculum to meet the guidelines set forth by the Alabama State Department of Education for a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program for students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve.

This curriculum will be consistent with techniques to teach children to recognize child sexual abuse, equip them with skills to reduce their vulnerability, and encourage them to report their abuse. The curriculum guide is divided into four teaching units. Although the concepts are the same for each grade, the vocabulary and lesson plans are appropriate and specific for each grade. Each unit will add to previous skills taught. The school counselor will facilitate the curriculum and the classroom teacher will support the school counselor throughout the lesson. The lessons may be incorporated into the existing Science, Health, Physical Education and/or Language Arts Curricula.

Included in the learning process of child sexual abuse, students learn the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touches. A unit on recognizing safe/good secrets and bad/unsafe secrets will be presented. Empowering students to find their voice, the confidence to speak up, and the ability to recognize potentially dangerous situations is vital to the well-being of all students, as well helping the students identify a safety network of individuals whom they can trust in their environment.

To accomplish these goals, children require the following:

1. Knowledge and ability to identify abuse and an understanding of the problem

2. An understanding that everyone has the right to control their own body, especially during exchanges of physical affection
3. Effective communication skills and assertive techniques for telling someone not to hurt them
4. Knowledge of whom to tell when abuse is occurring
5. Confidence that their family or community support system will believe and protect them
6. Perseverance to tell their story until the child abuse stops
7. The understanding that: IT IS NEVER THE CHILD'S FAULT!

During the facilitation of this curriculum, your child will be bringing home a Personal Safety Sheet. Please take the opportunity to discuss their personal safety and reinforce the safety message being taught at school. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school administrator or school counselor.

Thank you,

Joe Toomey

Principal

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