

September, 2017

Dear Parents:

The Dignity Act, which originally went into effect July 1, 2012, was amended with changes that have now been in effect since July 1, 2013. Some of the more significant amendments center around the defining of “cyber-bullying” and the expanded need, expectation and ability that schools have to investigate and intervene in such instances. Additionally, we have made available on our website, the New York State Guidance Document regarding Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students. This serves to raise greater awareness, sensitivity, and responsibility on the part of students and staff. Our District has revised our Code of Conduct to reflect these amendments, and will continue to inform and educate our students as to the significance of making good decisions, as well as the potential consequences of poor decisions. This is done in a multitude of ways through curricular and co-curricular activities. We would all agree that the prevalence of social media and technology, particularly at early ages, makes it essential that at home, at school, and for all the time in between, clear expectations and monitoring occurs to ensure responsible behavior on the part of our students. We all, parents and educators have roles to play in this regard. We all have a responsibility to stay current with the many and varied means of social networking used by our children. We must model and support proper “netiquette” and be aware of how easy it is for poor decisions to be made on the internet, through texting, or any other means of electronic communication. We will continue to update our website with information and resources for parents, teachers and students, as well as the on-going programs and initiatives within our district that support character education, positive decision-making, and appropriate use of social media. Many of these initiatives are and will continue to be “student-driven.” I encourage you to visit the Dignity Act sections of our website and to discuss these matters with your children. As always, should you have any questions or concerns, I encourage you to speak with your child’s teacher, principal, guidance counselor, school psychologist or social worker. You may also contact me at any time with any questions or for more information regarding the Dignity Act and ways in which we, as a District, continue to work with our parents to ensure that all students treat one another with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Fasano

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

District Dignity Act Coordinator