

Point Pleasant Schools



2100 Panther Path
Point Pleasant, New Jersey 08742

Vincent S. Smith, Superintendent
(732) 701-1900 ext. 2412
Fax (732) 892-8403

September 18, 2012

Dear Point Pleasant Borough Parents & Guardians,

Before we begin to settle into our familiar school routines, I would like to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude to each of you for your continued support and cooperation in the observation of school policies and procedures. District administration recognizes and appreciates the vital role you play in the successful operation of the Point Pleasant Borough School District. Thank you for helping to facilitate a seamless transition to the 2012-2013 school year!

I would also like to take this opportunity to restate the District's commitment to ensuring a learning environment free of harassment, intimidation and bullying for all students of Point Pleasant Borough Schools. The start of this school year marks one year since our Board of Education implemented the revised *Policy 5512.01: Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying*, in alignment with New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

Signed into law by Governor Christie in January 2011, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, or ABR, modified the requirements on how school districts address the issues of harassment, intimidation and bullying. Widely considered to be among the strongest anti-bullying legislation in the country, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act expands the definition of bullying and specifies requirements for reporting suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying, while also providing a framework designed to cultivate a positive school climate.

Although the Point Pleasant Borough School District has historically demonstrated a strong commitment to bullying prevention prior to the law's enactment, the District has, as stipulated by law, taken additional, proactive steps aimed at eradicating bullying, combining professional development and student and staff education with strategic outreaches to develop a comprehensive anti-bullying program.

Pursuant to the law, the District has established Anti-bullying teams, at each school; to investigate all reported incidents of bullying, harassment and/or intimidation. The teams assess each incident to determine whether it is classified as an incident of bullying, and determine an appropriate course of remedial action as required.

A District Anti-Bullying Coordinator, as well as school-specific Anti-Bullying Specialists, are also in place to help strengthen the District's anti-bullying program and to provide valuable feedback about their respective home-school climates.

The District Anti-Bullying Coordinator is Ms. Rita Miller, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services. Her office is located in the District Administration Building at 2100 Panther Path, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742, (732) 701-1900 ext. 2414, rmiller@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us.

The school-based Anti-Bullying Specialists are as follows;

- Ocean Road Elementary School
Ms. Susan Hansen
Benedict Street
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Phone: (732) 701-1900 ext. 5215
shansen@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us
- Memorial Middle School
Mr. Justin Kahn
808 Laura Herbert Drive
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Phone: (732) 701-1900 ext. 2309
jkahn@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us
- Nellie F. Bennett Elementary School
Ms. Cheryl Schneider
2000 Riviera Parkway
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Phone: (732) 701-1900 ext. 5218
cschneider@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us
- Point Pleasant High School
Mr. James Foley
808 Laura Herbert Drive
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Phone: (732) 701-1900 ext. 2230
jfoley@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us

If you have any questions regarding the Board Policy 5512.01, please contact Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Ms. Rita Miller.


Bullying incidents should be reported immediately to a building administrator and/or the building anti-bullying specialist. Any report made to a staff member will be communicated to a building administrator and the corresponding specialist.

District administration believes that the best approach to address harassment, bullying, and intimidation is through collaborative efforts between the school, parents and community leaders. As parents and guardians, you play a critical role in preventing occurrences of harassment, intimidation and bullying in our schools. Because the ABR includes a provision requiring school districts to address and report suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying that occur *outside* of school, *in the same manner as in-school behavior*, parental support is absolutely essential.

October 1-5, 2012 marks New Jersey's Week of Respect, a week of age-appropriate activities dedicated to preventing harassment, intimidation and bullying. We encourage you to use this week of awareness to engage in a dialogue with your children about the importance of respecting and accepting others. Send a clear message that harassment, bullying, and intimidation are never acceptable ways to interact with others, and model these expectations for your children.

Thank you again for your support. Together we can ensure a positive school climate for all Point Pleasant Borough students.

Sincerely,



Vincent S. Smith
Superintendent of Schools