

Beginning with the September 2011-12 school year, the Rumson School District has conscientiously implemented the requirements of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. We have made great strides to address harassment, intimidation and bullying and to improve our school climates and cultures to be safe, respectful, responsible and full of P.R.I.D.E. These efforts have been supported through classroom guidance lessons, school meetings, special programs, climate surveys, and parent forums. The yearly Self-Assessment helps our schools and district confirm that great kids and very supportive parents are among our many strengths.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, we also seek to take notice of our vulnerabilities. This year our district has renewed its focus and commitment in the area of character education. With the addition of time to the district's daily instructional schedule, time is now set aside at the start of each school day to address social-emotional learning and character education. For example, all K-8 students began the school year with six anti-bullying lessons created by the NJ Bar Foundation that are designed to give all students a common language across all grade levels. In addition, the district is training K-5 teachers in the Responsive Classroom framework for Morning Meetings to ensure that character education and pro-social learning is a focus across the school day, each and every day. It is the goal of the Rumson School District to commit to these research-based practices, which predict that students who start their day accordingly make great gains in social, emotional and academic skills.

Parent academies are once again scheduled throughout the year to inform parents and increase understanding of childhood and teenage developmental issues and their impact on both learning and HIB.

The 2015-16 Parent Academy dates are:

- October 12: Character education initiative overview
- December 7: 15-Minute Child Break - giving parents tools they need to talk to their kids about drugs and alcohol; presented by Drug Free NJ
- January 11: PARCC score overview
- February 15: How to recognize and understand anxiety in elementary and middle school children - presented by Dr. Alison Block
- March TBD: Fishbowl
- April TBD: Digital Citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century