

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The safety and well being of our adolescents is a major concern of parents today. Lakeview Junior High School recognizes this and is responding to these concerns by participating in the Teens Taking Charge program (TTC) presented by the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Patterson & McDaniel Family Center.

- ❑ **Family Shelter states:**
42% of teens will experience some form of violence in a dating relationship before they turn 21.

- ❑ **The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault states that:**
1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before they reach the age of 18. Of those, over 90% will be assaulted by someone they know and trust.

- ❑ **According to a survey done by Seventeen magazine through Wellesley College Center for Research on Women**
85% of girls and 76% of boys reported that while in school they experienced “unwanted, unwelcome, sexual behavior that interfered with their lives, both personally and academically”.

In 2013 Erin’s Law and the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Act were signed into law. These laws state that all schools must have policies that address sexual abuse and teen dating violence. The policies should help parents and school staff recognize and respond to any sexual abuse allegations, and dating violence. The policies should also help students to recognize dangerous situations whether they are abuse situations or dating violence and know what to do to keep themselves safe.

The TTC Program focuses on three components:

1. Relationships – helping students learn what a healthy relationship looks like and feels like. It will also address when relationships begin to go bad, how do they recognize that and what can they do to get help.

2. Sexual Assault Prevention – students will identify different types of abuse and sexual assault through an exercise using a continuum of violence. They will be encouraged to listen to their instincts to avoid dangerous situations and finally they will get resources on where to go for help.

3. Sexual Harassment, Cyber Bullying and Sexting – students will learn what sexual harassment is and what to do if they feel like they are being sexually harassed. They will gain a clearer understanding of what cyber bullying is and what sexting is. They will learn about the new laws concerning cyber bullying and sexting and what to do if they are cyber bullied or have sexts sent to them.

Throughout the program the Educators from the YWCA will be helping the students to identify a safety network of adults that they can go to if they have any problems or concerns.

Please partner with Lakeview and learn how you, as a parent, can enhance your adolescent's safety by attending the parents' program on **Wednesday, April 8th from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** at Lakeview Jr. High School. Educators from the YWCA Patterson & McDaniel Family Center will be facilitating this adult program. At this program you will learn more about what your eighth grade students will be learning in the TTC program. They YWCA will be presenting to our 8th grade students on April 27th-29th in their Science class.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul Windsor, Principal
Lakeview Junior High