

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 Sixth grade Exploring Boundaries program presented by the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Patterson & McDaniel Family Center. Exploring Boundaries curriculum is a companion to the Teens Taking Charge Program that your students will receive in eighth grade.

The Exploring Boundaries Program focuses on teaching students what personal boundaries are, how to recognize when those boundaries are crossed, and how to identify the time to involve safe and trusted adults for help.

Adolescents and teens who possess healthy personal boundaries have improved self-confidence and a healthy self-concept. They are more in touch with reality, are better able to communicate with others, and have more fulfilling, healthy and safe relationships. Furthermore, students who have healthy personal boundaries are better equipped to identify warning signs in a relationship that indicate they could be at risk for dating violence or sexual abuse.

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.

Please partner with your school 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. Educators from the YWCA Patterson & McDaniel Family Center will be facilitating this adult program. The YWCA will present to students on April 27th-29th in their ELA class.

If you have questions or concerns after seeing the program, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul Windsor
Principal