Gurrie Middle School

Ed Hood, Principal

1001 South Spring Avenue
LaGrange, IL 60525-2798
(708) 482-2720
www.d105.net

Gurrie Middle School: Empowering students to pursue their interests, talents and dreams.

June, 2015

Dear Parent:

Here at Gurrie, we continue to focus on building positive relationships that enhance our school culture and provide a safe environment for students and staff. This is an integral part of our educational programs success. Our student, teacher, and parent survey responses indicate that Gurrie has a positive, safe, and supportive school environment, but we do recognize that some of our students have concerns.

Our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Supports) initiative lays the foundation for our overall expectations of "Be Respectful, Be Ready, and Be Safe." We focus on the positive choices, decisions, and actions of our students and reinforce them continuously throughout the school year.

We also work hard to ensure that each student feels comfortable talking with at least one adult at school about a problem or concern. Through our Advisory Program and Focus Groups, students identify three "Go to People" in the building that they would seek out in the case of a serious problem or concern. This has worked very well for us and allowed us to work through situations in a confidential manner, addressing concerns early before they grow into more difficult situations.

In conjunction with these efforts to support students and provide an outlet for their concerns, we have two additional avenues for students to report concerns. These outlets are anonymous, and available through email or phone. You are receiving a magnet that we hope you will keep handy at home in the event that your child needs to report something to us but would feel more comfortable reporting anonymous information. As the majority of our students will attend Lyons Township High School, we have closely aligned our help line with theirs.

This by no means should replace the student-adult relationships (their three "Go To People") we work so hard to build. This is the critical element in our culture that strengthens relationships and builds trust. Our Speak Up Line is for those times when for whatever reason, a student may feel going to an adult is not an option, but they still feel compelled to say something or bring the situation to light. This additional support for students will continue to provide a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment here at Gurrie.

The GMS Speak Up Line is an opportunity for students to report unsafe or disrespectful behavior in an anonymous manner. Students can call 708-482-2723 or email their concerns at GMSSPEAKUPLINE@D105.NET. Students do not need to leave their name,

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but simply state what they are concerned about. We will check these daily by 8 AM when school is in session and act on any information we receive in a quick and confidential manner.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact myself; Mr. Ed Alvarez, Dean of Students; or Jeannette Pedersen, School Social Worker.

Respectfully,

Ed Hood