

Point Pleasant Schools



2100 Panther Path
Point Pleasant, New Jersey 08742

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

Dear Point Pleasant Borough Parents & Guardians,

Before we begin to settle into familiar school routines, I would like to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude for the vital role you play in the successful operation of our schools. We thank you for your continued support and cooperation in the observation of and compliance with district policies and procedures, which has helped facilitate a seamless transition to another new school year.

The start of the new school year is an important time in our students' lives as it presents an opportunity for a new beginning. It's imperative that we begin the year right, with a commitment not only to helping our students achieve academically but also to ensuring students are exposed to the best possible learning environment. The Point Pleasant Borough School District firmly believes that the best possible learning environment is one that is free of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

It has been several years since Point Pleasant Borough's Board of Education implemented the revised *Policy 5512: 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 for how school districts address incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying. Widely regarded to be among the strongest anti-bullying legislation in the country, the Act not only expands the definition of bullying but also specifies requirements for reporting suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying, while also providing a framework for schools to cultivate a positive school climate.

When the law was enacted, the district established Anti-bullying teams at each school, to investigate all reported incidents of bullying, harassment and/or intimidation. The teams remain in place at our four schools where they are responsible for assessing each reported HIB incident to determine whether it meets the criteria for classification as harassment, intimidation and/or bullying. The team also determines the appropriate course of remedial action where required.

A District Anti-Bullying Coordinator oversees the program while school-specific Anti-Bullying Specialists serve as team leaders for their respective school's anti-bullying team. The school-based Anti-Bullying Specialists also help strengthen the district's anti-bullying program by targeting HIB behaviors through integrated character education programs and positive behavior reinforcement initiatives.

The district's 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.

School-based Anti-Bullying Specialists:

- 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
Ms. Jennifer Kelly
808 Laura Herbert Drive
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Phone: (732) 701-1900 ext. 2309
jkelly@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 Borough 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 specific questions regarding ABR or the district's HIB policy, please contact Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Ms. Rita Miller.

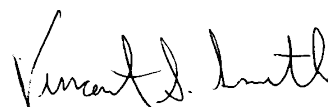
Bullying incidents should be reported immediately to a building administrator and/or the building anti-bullying specialist. Any report made to a staff member will be communicated to a building administrator and the corresponding specialist.

District administration believes that the most effective way to prevent 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.

Speak 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 students of Point Pleasant Borough Schools.

Sincerely,



Vincent S. Smith
Superintendent of Schools