

Point Pleasant Schools



2100 Panther Path
Point Pleasant, New Jersey 08742

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

December 21, 2011

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The start of the new school year is an exciting time in the lives of our students and their families. As new teachers and peers begin to mix in with the familiar faces of years past, students' school experiences take shape and form the basis of their formative years of education. It is the firm belief of the Point Pleasant Borough School District that it is district students' inherent right that those experiences be free from the negative effects of harassment, intimidation and bullying. Although our district has demonstrated a strong commitment to bullying prevention through a combination of professional development, student education and outreach for many years, the Board of Education has recently adopted revisions to Board Policy 5512.01 - Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying in alignment with New Jersey's new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

Signed into law in January 2011 by Governor Christie, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act places new requirements on how school districts address the issues of harassment, intimidation and bullying. Widely considered to be among some of the strongest anti-bullying laws in the country, the new Act sets specific requirements for reporting suspected incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying. Pursuant to the new legislation, the district has established anti-bullying teams to investigate each reported incident. The teams assess each incident to determine whether it fits within the new parameters and warrants further action.

A district Anti-Bullying Coordinator as well as school based Anti-Bullying Specialists have also been appointed in alignment with the policy specifications. Point Pleasant Borough'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.

The school-based Anti-Bullying Specialists are as follows;

- [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](#)
Mr. Justin Kahn
808 Laura Herbert Drive
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Phone: (732) 701-1900 ext. 2309
jkahn@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. Ed McNeil
808 Laura Herbert Drive
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742
Phone: (732) 701-1900 ext. 2209
emcneil@pointpleasant.k12.nj.us

The revised policy can be viewed in its entirety on the district website by visiting the homepage of our district website homepage and on the Policy tab as well as on each individual school's homepage, or by clicking the following link; http://pointpleasant.k12.nj.us/PolicyPages/5512.01_HIB.pdf. If you have any questions regarding the policy, please contact the 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.

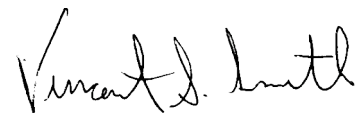
District administration believes that the best approach to address harassment, bullying, and intimidation is through collaborative efforts between the school, parents and community leaders. As parents and guardians, you play a critical role in preventing occurrences of harassment, intimidation and bullying in our schools. Because the new Act 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.

Please 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.

October 3rd marks the beginning of the District's Week of Respect, a week of age-appropriate activities dedicated to preventing harassment, intimidation and bullying. On Thursday, October 6th, the district will host an anti-bullying parent workshop to address the Act and how it affects students and their families. The seminar will take place on Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 7pm in the Point Pleasant Borough High School Auditorium.

I strongly encourage all parents and guardians to attend the workshop to learn about this landmark new legislation. Together we can ensure a positive school climate for all students of Point Pleasant Borough Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent S. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vincent S. Smith
Superintendent of Schools