



November 17, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

During the first week of December, the Guilford Public School District will conduct a very important survey on the needs, attitudes and behaviors of our students in grades 7 through 12. The survey is titled *Search Institute Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors*.

TEAM Guilford, Guilford Youth and Family Services, the Women and Family Life Center and representatives from the school district have been participating in an ongoing dialogue regarding the youth in our community, their needs, current issues and possible actions. One such action was the creation of a K-12 Philosophy of Discipline and Behavior and associated beliefs that serve as the foundation for our K-12 school rules and character education programs. As conversations continued, all those included felt that it was important to hear from the students. To that end, a decision was made to conduct the Search Institute Survey. The idea was brought to the Guilford Board of Education and the implementation was approved last spring.

We feel the survey results will help all of us as we seek to address the developmental needs of our youth. It will provide our school and community with a wide range of information, such as how students spend their time, their perceptions of school and community life, and their participation in a wide range of risky behaviors. Most important, the survey will tell us the extent to which our students are experiencing Developmental Assets. Developmental Assets are the "building blocks" of positive relationships, opportunities, skills and values that young people need to grow into healthy, caring, and responsible adults. Additional information with regard to the Search Institute and the Developmental Assets is available on our web site.

It is our intent to administer the survey to all students in grades 7-12. If you do not want your child to participate, please e-mail the Principal of your child's school directly (GHS Students: misentir@guilford.k12.ct.us or Adams Students: walkerc@guilford.k12.ct.us) by November 30, 2009.

The students will be given approximately 30-45 minutes to complete the survey anonymously. No one will know individual students responses to the questions. All students within each classroom place their completed surveys into one envelope. The envelope is then sealed and sent directly to the Search Institute for processing. No person at either GHS or AMS will review any of the surveys. The final report will present findings by the total group, grade and gender. No individual student data are reported.

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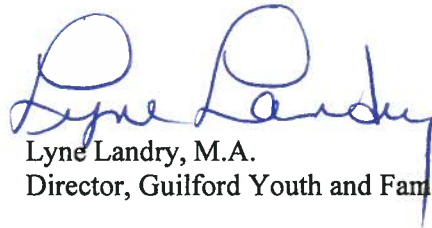
Finally, a copy of the survey is available for your review in the main office at both Guilford High School and Adams Middle School during school hours. Copies are also available for you to review at the Superintendent's Office, 55 Park Street between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and at the Guilford Youth and Family Services Office, 32 Graves Avenue, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You will not be able to copy the survey, only view it at the respective locations.

If you have any questions, please contact either one of us at 453-8210 (Dr. Forcella) or 453-8047 (Ms. Landry).

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Forcella, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Lyne Landry, M.A.
Director, Guilford Youth and Family Services

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