



MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

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Dear Parents:

Recently we have had questions regarding student misbehavior and how we as a school community responds. We are writing to address a concern that we know arises on occasion in our schools. Parents will hear concerns about bullying behavior that may occur, and then worry whether school officials are doing enough to address it. Sometimes parents even ask that students not be permitted back into school if their behavior is of great concern.

First of all, we want to assure you that we have in place a strong bullying policy and when we get bullying allegations, we quickly address them. Bullying incidents are dealt with firmly, with a clear goal of stopping the behavior. Sometimes we make use of suspension days as a consequence, but state law and best practices both encourage schools to attempt other interventions that can address the behavior without excluding students from school. We make those efforts here as well.

We also want you to know that we try to make decisions about behavior interventions through a team process, and we do have available to us and our student teams a good deal of behavioral expertise to draw upon, all in an effort to improve student behavior without simply excluding students from school. Our personal goal is to try to keep children in school as much as possible, with exclusion being a last resort. We absolutely agree that students need to learn in a safe environment, and we believe that our schools are safe.

Like any school, there is occasional misbehavior, and we are going the extra mile to teach students who misbehave how to behave better, and yet remain a part of our school community. This is a goal every family has for their own children, and we have it for our schools. If our behavior interventions are unable to succeed, we will of course look to greater levels of intervention in other settings. We will keep our schools safe, at all times. But as long as it seems likely that we can succeed behaviorally with a child, we will keep at it, trying to help build better citizens. These are all our children, and we are working hard for our school communities when we work hard for them.

We are available to any of you to address concerns you may have. Please feel free to call us. And certainly, any time you are concerned about possible safety issues, bring them to our attention. But we also hope you will understand our efforts here to help all our children be better learners. Please contact your building principal if you have any questions.

Best wishes to you all as we move into the summer season. We will miss all your children over the next few months and look forward to a new school year in September.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Donna Wolfrom, Superintendent of Schools

Jeff Boston, Principal (Readfield Elementary and Wayne Elementary)

Janet Delmar, Principal (Manchester Elementary and Mount Vernon Elementary)

C: Elementary School Staff
RSU #38 Board of Directors