Providing A Safe, Secure and Supportive Learning Environment For Students

Garden City Public Schools
Board of Education Presentation
December 4, 2012
The Instructional Tripod

Academic Success for all Students

Improved student performance depends on strengthening three legs of an instructional tripod:

- **Content**
  What should we teach? Does each teacher have deep knowledge of the curriculum?

- **Pedagogy**
  How should we teach? Does each teacher use effective instructional techniques?

- **Relationships**
  Are we a community? Do students and teachers care about, inspire, and motivate each other?
Goal: Creating a Caring Learning Environment

- Character Education/Anti-Bullying Programs
- DASA Curriculum
- Student Transition/Orientation Programs
- Co-Curricular Activities
- School Security Procedures
Primary and Elementary Schools

• Bucket-Filler Philosophy - Grades K-5

• Assembly programs:
  - National Circus Project
  - The New Kid theater production
  - Operation Super Hero

• Pro-active in-school programs:
  - Peace Corner- Peace Ambassadors
  - Girl Talk- Grade 5

• CAPS Elementary Programs:
  - Steer Clear of Bullies
  - Anti-Cyber-bullying
Primary and Elementary Schools

• Spirit Day

• Buddy Classes - Across grade levels

• Book of the Month Program: October - ONE by Kathryn Otoshi

• Unity Day - October 10, 2012- Grades K-5
Unity Day
October 10, 2012
What is Second Step?
Grades K-5

Second Step Promotes:

1) School success
2) School connectedness
3) Safe and respectful school climate

Strengthens each student’s ability to:

1) Learn
2) Have empathy
3) Manage emotions
4) Solve problems

* Curriculum is presented by classroom teachers and reinforced by the entire school staff
The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) & Student Instruction

- **New Curriculum for grades K to 12**

- **Curriculum covers the following areas:**
  - Honesty
  - Tolerance
  - Personal responsibility
  - Respect for others
  - Observance of laws
  - Courtesy
  - Dignity
Middle School

Programs and Services
5th into 6th Grade Transition

• 5th grade Assembly Program
• 5th into 6th grade Parent Night
• Buddy Days/Elementary Teacher Articulation
• New! 5th grade Parent Chats
• 6th grade Guidance classroom presentation
MS Social-Emotional-Academic Support Services

- Individual meetings with counselor
- Lunch room support
- Ongoing parent communication
- Ongoing interventions:
  - SRT/CST/Team meetings
Social and Emotional/Character Education Curriculum:

- Anti-Bullying Program (Olweus)
- Daily Program/Weekly Class Meetings (CPR)

Goals:

- Foster friendships
- Promote positive social interaction
- Develop problem solving skills
- Encourage empathy, courtesy, loyalty, integrity, and patriotism
- Respect for others, tolerance, and acceptance
Peer Leadership Program

LEADERS Program

- Grades 6-8
- Six lessons a year
- 2-4 Leaders per HomeBase
- Coordinated by Social Worker and Anti-Bullying Coordinator

- Sample Topics Include:
  - Cyber-Bullying
  - Sportmanship
  - Name Calling
  - Popularity/Cliques
  - Power of Kindness
  - Community Responsibility
  - Dignity and Respect for All
  - Upstander Empowerment
Anti-Bullying Club

Over 80 Students Involved in ABC!

- Weekly meetings
- Anti-bullying contests and activities
- Community projects
- Character education field trips
- Anti-Bullying Expo (2 day event)

VIDEO
8th into 9th Grade Transition

- 8th grade guidance assembly in January
- 8th grade parent chats with both MS and HS counselor
- January open house
- Bridge days
- MS/HS articulation
- August orientation
- September assembly
- Freshmen BBQ, parent night & individual guidance meetings
High School
Co-Curricular Activities

• Purpose is to create a connection to our school and faculty for each student
• Over 50 clubs and activities available
High School Character Education Programs

- Students Helping Students
- Peer AIDS Educators
- Peer Leaders
- National Honor Society
- Key Club
School Security Procedures

- Sign-in required
- Protocol for visitors
- Doors locked
- One entrance/exit
Many Thanks to the Presentation Committee

• Dr. Fino Celano, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel
• Gina Christel, Director of Guidance
• Kimberly Greenwald, Middle School Teacher
• Michele Ingoglia, Middle School Guidance Counselor
• Susan Kenny, Stewart Assistant Principal
• Nan McLaughlin, High School Principal
• Dr. Gina Tornincaso, Primary School Psychologist
• Dr. Suzanne Viscovich, Homestead Principal