

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Stephanie Snyder, Superintendent & Supervisor of Special Services
Mrs. Susan Wardell, Principal/Curriculum & 504 Coordinator

908-995-2401
www.hollandschool.org



March 17, 2023

Dear Parents:

I believe our greatest gift in life is found in the eyes of our children. Our children bring us immense joy and fulfillment, and at times great grief and worry. Our children are continually watching us, taking notes on our behavior, our reactions, and our words spoken or played out through actions. Our children, as well as ourselves, are lifelong learners growing each day in their ability to understand the world.

Our children look to us to build their foundations, and their understanding of the world around them.

Lately, Holland School has experienced growing pains, snapshots of time where we, as adults, needed to address choices and behaviors of children carefully so that our children learned lessons of acceptance and grew stronger from it.

As we plan to educate our children through these snapshots, we need to ensure that the message is positive. We need to make sure that our children understand that aggression is not an acceptable reaction to those that are different than us. We need to teach our children that this is not healthy or helpful for our school community, we need to explain to our children that engaging in acts of aggression as a response to ignorance/misunderstanding is wrong.

Teachers, administrators, parents and community members need to continually work in unison to send positive messages to our children, we need to model behavior that we expect from them, we need to teach our children acceptance and empathy for all. At Holland School we are doing this through opportunities to learn and have fun. I would like to share all that we, at Holland School, have done to succeed in our goal.

In the Spring of the 2021-2022 School Year the Holland Township Board of Education, PTO, faculty and staff dedicated themselves to understanding diversity, inclusion and equity in education and educational practices for all. Over the past year our dedication to these pillars have been demonstrated with lessons, presentations and professional development funded by the BOE and the PTO and supported by our parent community.

Staff Development:

- Targeted Professional Development for Inclusionary Practice
- Recognizing Microaggressions
- Bullying Awareness and Cybersafety
- Emotional Regulation Supports for Today's World
- How to Support LGBTQ+ Students
- HIB Law Updates
- Social Emotional Training - Supporting Friendships
- Youth Suicide: Awareness and Prevention
- School Violence: Identifying and Addressing

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- Making School Safe and Inclusive for LGBTQ+ Students
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Staff to Student
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Staff to Staff
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Student to Student
- De-Escalation Strategies
- Cyberbullying
- Cultural Competence and Racial Bias

Student Presentations and Classroom Lessons:

- Partnered with the PTO to present Mykee Fowlin
- 5-8 assembly on Understanding Microaggression
- Why will no one play with me? Inclusion and Understanding Others K-4
- Kindness and Accepting Differences- K-5
- Conflict Resolution - 6th grade
- Making healthy choices for our bodies and minds - Kindergarten
- Friendships
- Hands are Not for Hitting
- Acceptance and Valuing Differences
- Harmful Teasing and Joking
- Leadership Blueprint 4 Greatness (T.R.I.B.E- Telling Real Inspiring Beliefs Everyday) - to begin April 2023

Parent Programs:

- Bullying Awareness and Cyberbullying
- Understanding Special Education
- Supporting Social, Emotional and Academic Growth
- Building School to Home Relationships
- Leadership Blueprint 4 Greatness (T.R.I.B.E- Telling Real Inspiring Beliefs Everyday) - to begin April 2023

Our goal is ongoing, and will continue to grow as we understand the needs of our school community and our children. We understand that our children learn through observing us, and we will continue to strive to be positive role models for their future. As always, please reach out to us with your ideas and concerns.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sincerely,



Stephanie Snyder
Superintendent

SS/ld