

North Adams Public Schools to Hold Bullying Prevention Presentation

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NORTH ADAMS, Mass. — The Public Schools have scheduled a presentation on the topics of bullying and cyberbullying prevention for parents and community members. The program, "Bullying Prevention and Internet Safety," will be held in the Drury High School auditorium beginning at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 16. Students are welcome to attend with their parents. If cancelled due to weather, the event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 17.

Meghan McCoy, program coordinator from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State University, will present current information about bullying and cyberbullying. Many students are working on projects that promote respect, nonviolence, Internet safety and a caring school environment; the evening will include a Learning Gallery to exhibit this work. It will also include a musical performance by elementary and high school students and a viewing of student-made public service announcements.

The presentation will include information about typical online activities of children and internet safety. It will also include tips on how parents can work with their children and their schools in both bullying and cyberbullying situations. Parents do not need to be computer experts to become more aware of how to help their children navigate the online world safely. It is also important that parents understand how to collaborate with schools in order to successfully resolve bullying situations.

This presentation is part of an ongoing effort to build awareness on this critical issue. As part of the new Bullying Prevention law, a training session for all school personnel and high school students was held in October, where McCoy presented information on identification, intervention and response to bullying and cyberbullying. She will also be conducting student training sessions for students in grades 5, 6 and 7..

Bus transportation will be provided to and from Drury High School. The bus will leave Greylock School at 5:35 p.m. and leave Brayton School at 5:45. The bus will return riders after the conclusion of the program. Parents, guardians and children under the supervision of a parent/guardian are welcome to ride the bus. Children who are not accompanied by an adult will not be allowed on the bus.

For more information about bullying prevention and intervention programs in North Adams Public Schools, contact Anne French at Drury High School, 413-662-3240, ext. 1204 or afrench@napsk12.org. Additional resources can be found at www.napsk12.org/bullying-prevention.