



Coatesville Area School District

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3030 C.G. Zinn Rd. Thorndale, PA 19372 | casdschools.org | 610-466-2400

January 9, 2023

Dear Coatesville Area School District Parents/Guardians,

Research shows that a student's social and emotional skills greatly impact their ability to learn and to be productive members of a classroom and school community. In education, this is generally referred to as "Social Emotional Learning," or SEL.

This fall, our teachers in grades K through 7 completed a brief online rating form (known commonly in education as a screener) for each student, answering a series of questions about the student, to help benchmark how each student is doing in the following eight SEL areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships skills, goal-directed behavior, personal responsibility, decision making, and optimistic thinking. Students did not participate; This was simply based on each teacher's observations.

A few things you should know:

- The purpose of this screener, which is based on national averages, is to help identify students who could benefit from additional supports. Our teachers *routinely* look for signs that our students could use extra help – academically and emotionally. This is just another way to provide some structure to that regular evaluation.
- This screener is part of a research-based, national program designed specifically for schools. Teachers answered questions based on what they have observed of their students in class during the first few months of school. Teachers used a rating scale to respond to questions like, "The student works well in groups," or, "The student doesn't give up easily if they are not immediately successful."
- Parents/guardians will only be notified of the results of this screener if their child is identified as needing additional support. If you do not receive a letter from your child's school, you can assume that based on the screener, your child did not register as needing support. This screener will be given twice each year.
- If your child is identified as needing additional support, they will meet with one of our school counselors or a trusted adult/mentor in their school in a group or individual setting to work on those skills. Students will be grouped based on the areas of needs that were identified through the screening tool.

Interim Superintendent: Richard F. Dunlap Jr., Ed. D.

This screening tool is part of our larger focus on SEL in our schools. Our ultimate goal is to incorporate the eight SEL areas into our curriculum, K – 12.

If you have any questions, please contact Pupil Services Director Brenda George at: georgeb@casdschools or 610-466-2400 X82510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard F. Dunlap, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Richard F. Dunlap, Jr., Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent
Coatesville Area School District