

September 26, 2019

Dear Parents/ Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that your 8th grade student will have the opportunity to hear a Sexual Assault Awareness Presentation at James Madison Middle School. The assembly will be held on Wednesday, October 9, from 10:00-11:00 AM to discuss what sexual assault is, the life-effects it can have on survivors, what to do if it happens to you or a loved one, and community resources available.

Chelsea Bongert is the first presenter. She is a middle school area teacher and activist, has been presenting to middle schools for the past 8 years and college classes for the past 12 years. She brings her personal story of rape and assault, the trauma, and the hope and healing that follows. Her story, though emotional, speaks to the hope, courage, and healing that is possible. The second presenter is Francis George and he is also passionate about this topic and what we can do, actions we can take as people and a society each day to help stop sexual violence. He is also a member of the Appleton community and has led many youth groups. The topic of sexual assault is something to be taken very seriously and our hope is that this presentation will be beneficial for students to understand this sensitive topic better. We would also like to assure you that the presentation will be done in an age appropriate manner as well. Because of the emotions this topic may bring, school staff, SACC- Fox Cities, Catalpa Health, and Hopeline will be at each presentation with advocates ready to listen to students who need to talk.

We acknowledge that this may be an emotional topic for some students. Therefore, if you feel it is best for your child not to attend the presentation, please sign and return the bottom portion of this letter to Mr. Balda or Mrs. Schindel our school counselors. **(Signing this means you are OPTING OUT of the presentation)** If you have any questions about this presentation or would like some additional clarification, feel free to email Mr. Balda at baldakyle@aasd.k12.wi.us or Mrs. Schindel at Schindelshanno@aasd.k12.wi.us

We would like to extend an invitation to all parents/guardians to attend as well. We believe the presentation is powerful, but the conversations after the presentation are just as important. Experiencing the same presentation may allow for some more meaningful dialogue between you and your child. Attendance is not mandatory, but we do want you all to know that you are welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to madison-middle@aasd.k12.wi.us.

Thanks,

Dave Torrey & Andy Schanke

ONLY SIGN IF YOU ARE CHOOSING TO OPT YOUR STUDENT OUT OF THE PRESENTATION

I feel this topic would be a difficult topic for my student and I request that they be allowed to stay in the library instead of attending this presentation. Thank you for understanding:

Signature: _____

Print Student Name: _____

****Return to Mr. Balda or Mrs. Schindel (School Counselors)****