







# Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District

## District Office

 639 County Route 22 • Parish, NY 13131  (315) 625-5250  (315) 625-7952  [www.apwschools.org](http://www.apwschools.org)

October 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may know, APW JSHS has experienced an increase in vandalism and student physical and verbal aggression upon returning to school full time. This increase in student behavior issues is taking place at all secondary schools throughout Oswego County and throughout the state.

Physical violence, racial slurs and disrespectful, vulgar, discriminatory language towards staff and other students, along with vandalism of school property, cannot and will not be tolerated at the APW Central School District. We live in a society that is politically divided and our students are seeing that divide on TV and through social media platforms. Schools must be a safe place for all students. The violence and disrespect for others seen and experienced throughout society has no place in our children's school.

I am asking you to come together as a community for our students; work with your children and others to model and insist upon safe, legal and non-discriminatory behavior for all. It is imperative that when students have differing views with friends, other students and/or school staff they can respectfully listen to other people's opinions or simply walk away without argument. In other words – AGREE to DISAGREE. Having the skill to listen to others opinions without adopting their beliefs is a life skill that will benefit all in the future. No one ever got a promotion in a job by arguing with their supervisor or calling co-workers discriminatory names – our society, whether split or not, does not operate that way.

If your child is experiencing bullying, in any way, please have them to go to their building principal and ask for help. You, as a parent, can contact the school principal to report bullying, discriminatory or vulgar/racial slurs. Please help us to stop this damaging behavior before more serious incidents take place.

Our principals are trained in investigating serious infractions and will do their best to have negative behavior cease. Our counselors have training in proactive, restorative practices to teach young people how to cope with anger, depression, anxiety and life events that affect us negatively. If your child is experiencing difficulties with returning to school or is acting out in negative ways, please let us help you and your family.

Those who refuse to seek help and continue to act aggressively and/or inappropriately will face serious consequences for their behavior in school. Any student involved in a physical fight or attack in school will be immediately suspended for five days with a superintendent's hearing to consider a longer suspension. Any student who uses racial slurs or makes discriminatory comments toward another will be suspended for at least three days – and much more for continued behavior.

Please understand that we are serious about restoring order and calmness to our school. When students take part in physical violence and/or repeated incidents of bullying or discriminatory behavior – they will be suspended long term. Many for **the remainder of the school year or longer**.

Thank you for your support in keeping our schools safe for all.

Sincerely,

  
Lynn K. Rhone, Superintendent