



October 27, 2015

Dear Parents of Students in Grades 6, 8, 10 and 12;

Our school district is taking part in the 2015 Pennsylvania Youth Survey sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and given to students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 every two years. The survey will take place on Tuesday November 10. WCASD has been participating in this state survey since 1999. Students will be asked personal questions about violence, weapons, and substance abuse. You are strongly encouraged to review the survey to determine if you want your middle school aged child to complete the survey.

You can view the entire survey by visiting the Pupil Services section of our website at <http://www.wcasd.net> or by clicking on this link. http://home.wcasd.net/files/_JaDPU_/5bdf33f6acf791a83745a49013852ec4/2015_PAYS.pdf

The following information will help you understand what the survey entails:

The survey is voluntary.

1. Parents do not need to provide a reason for a child to not participate and students may skip any question they might not understand. Students can skip any question that they do not wish to answer. In addition, students may stop participating in the survey at any point without penalty.
2. It is anonymous and confidential. No names are recorded and the survey is designed to protect student rights and privacy as well as the school's privacy. Only district data is reported.
3. No child's individual responses can be identified. Only summary information by grade level will be reported. This information is used to help our school district plan for programs that will help educate children about "at risk" and "dangerous" behaviors.

Some parents have expressed concern about middle school children taking this survey. Any parent who wants his/her child to be exempt from the survey should contact Ms. Casey Yarnall at cyarnall@wcasd.net by Friday November 6. Your request will be given directly to your student's school and your child will be removed from the regular homeroom and given an alternative homeroom on the day of the survey.

If you want to discuss the survey with your child, here are some helpful talking points:

1. Please try to answer questions honestly.
2. Some of the questions will be difficult to understand. If you don't know how to answer, just skip the question.
3. Nobody taking the survey will be identified. It is completely anonymous.
4. The school district and state of Pennsylvania want to use information gathered from this survey to help plan programs for students.

The goal of this survey is to use data to help eliminate risky behaviors, and help our young people make decisions that will keep them safe.

If you should have any questions regarding the survey please feel free to call Casey Yarnall at 484-266-1230 or Leigh Ann Ranieri, Director of Pupil Services at 484-266-1229. Thanks for taking time to review this information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Scanlon
Superintendent