



# **GREENVILLE MIDDLE ACADEMY**

**RAMS ARE RESILIENT, RESOURCEFUL, READY**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

November 19, 2024

The Julie Valentine Center is partnering with Greenville County Schools and will soon be presenting a personal safety program, Safer, Smarter Teens, in our school. This program is designed to arm your child with the necessary skills to avoid sexual abuse and exploitation. It is age-appropriate and provides practical strategies to help teens protect themselves without being explicit or frightening. This discussion also helps to keep the lines of communication open between you and your child, which is key to their safety. This program aims to teach teens that:

- Building self-esteem increases responsible behavior, including assisting others
- Safe relationships involve a balance of power.
- Setting personal boundaries means they have the right to say “no” to anything and anyone that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- They need to have a few adults they trust whom they can go to whenever a situation makes them feel scared or uncomfortable.
- They can learn to recognize “red flags,” such as secrets or threats, that may be warning signs of unsafe situations.
- Social media and the internet are great tools, but we all must use them responsibly.

The program will be presented during the month of December to all 6th graders following the schedule below:

Monday, December 2: Ms. Krist’s classes

Tuesday, December 3: Mr. Hall’s classes

Wednesday, December 4: Mrs. LaRosa’s classes

Program materials are available for preview at your school. Please contact your school counselor to see them or reach out to the Julie Valentine Center directly with any additional questions.

If you **DO NOT** wish for your student to participate, please sign below and return the slip to your child’s teacher. It is not necessary to return the slip if your student has permission to participate in this program.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I DO NOT wish for my student to participate in the sexual harassment and online safety unit.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks,  
Megan Giordani, School Counselor  
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