



# NEW HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW HARTFORD TOWN HALL

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November 16, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Pursuant to section 17a-101q of the CT General Statute, each school district is responsible for implementing a sexual assault and abuse prevention and awareness program. This statute requires us as a district to provide: age-appropriate materials for students, instructional modules for teachers, and a uniform child sexual abuse and assault response policy and reporting procedure.

In accordance with CT Statute 17a-101q; New Hartford Public Schools will begin teaching a Sexual Assault and Abuse Prevention and Awareness program to students in grades K-6 this year. We will provide age-appropriate materials and deliver a program aligned with the state's new Sexual Assault and Abuse Prevention and Awareness Standards and Performance Indicators.

Our implementation team consists of our school psychologists; Jennifer Harris and Alexandra Uscilla along with Deborah Marciano, the Antolini Physical Education/Health teacher. We will also partner with Matt Ekstrand from The Susan B. Anthony Project in Torrington to assist the team in delivering instruction to our students.

We will be using curriculum materials from the *Second Step, Child Protection Units* designed by *The Committee for Children*. Each student will participate in a series of three lessons (30-45 minutes in length) specific to their grade level band (k-1, 2-3, 4-6). The three lessons in the New Hartford series are:

1. Ways to Stay Safe & Always Ask First Rule
2. Safe, Unsafe & Unwanted Touches
3. The Touching Rule, Private Body Parts & Ways to Stay Safe

In these lessons, students will learn three types of skills:

- **Personal Safety.** Students will learn important safety rules, such as safety with guns, sharp tools, and fire, and when riding on wheels or in cars. They will also learn ways to help them decide if something is safe or not.
- **Touching Safety.** Students will learn about safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches, and rules about touching private body parts. They'll also learn to say no to unsafe or unwanted touches, and to tell an adult if someone breaks rules about touching private body parts.
- **Assertiveness.** These lessons will also include how to ask an adult for help, telling an adult about an unsafe situation, and being assertive to get out of unsafe situations.

An information session for parents regarding the state-mandated sexual abuse awareness programming for the 2016-17 school year will be held on Tuesday, December 13, from 6-7 p.m. in the Antolini Multipurpose Room. If you plan on attending, please register using the link found on the 'Curriculum' page of the NHPS district website. Please note that this session is not appropriate for children to attend and each family member attending should register.

Sincerely,

*Erika Sacharko*  
Director of Curriculum