October 17, 2021

Dear Blind Brook Families,

As you may be aware from national and local media reports, there has been a disturbing trend on social media recently, specifically regarding so-called “TikTok challenges.” In response, school leaders locally and nationally are seeking their communities’ assistance. These challenges encourage children to perform disruptive, inappropriate, and in many cases illegal acts, in or around their schools. You may have heard or read about incidents of vandalizing school property in September. Each month brings a new variation, including the assault of teachers or staff members.

Your children have likely heard about these challenges, whether or not they are active on social media. We ask that you talk to them, especially if they are in middle or high school, about appropriate behavior at school. This is an opportunity to talk about the use of technology, being socially responsible, and standing up for kindness.

Going down the list that is currently circulating, we see a variety of illegal and antisocial activities, each of which carries serious consequences for those who engage in them. They range from “Slap a teacher” (Assault) and “Jab a breast” (Sexual Assault) to “Ditch day” (Truancy), “Flip off in the front office” (Disrespectful Behavior) and more. Needless to say, these behaviors have no place within our schools or our community.

We expect our students to show pride in their schools, to respect one another as well as our faculty and staff, and to always do the right thing. Thankfully, with your support, those expectations are most always met.

That said, any student acting on these challenges will be in violation of our district Code of Conduct, and they will face serious consequences. These are not jokes, pranks or mere examples of “kids being kids.” Possible disciplinary actions include in-school or out-of-school suspension, not to mention potential legal action.

We appreciate your support in reiterating this message and helping to ensure that our school district never has to address this type of behavior.

Sincerely,

Colin Byrne
Interim Superintendent of Schools