Morris Hills High School

520 West Main Street • Rockaway, NJ 07866-3799

Todd M. Toriello, Ed.D. • Principal • 973-664-2301

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Dear Morris Hills Regional District Community:

The Morris Hills Regional Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any student. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and function and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and disciplined environment. The Morris Hills Regional District prides itself on providing a safe learning environment for all of its students. As the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights states, "By strengthening standards for preventing, reporting, investigating, and responding to incidents of bullying, this act will help to reduce the risk of suicide among students and avert not only the needless loss of a young life, but also the tragedy that such loss represents to the student's family and the community at large."

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying is defined under N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14: as:

"Any gesture, written, verbal or physical act, or electronic communication, whether a single incident or series of incidents, AND

That is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, AND

That takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus or off school grounds that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school, AND that:

(a) a reasonable person should know will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing the student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or property; or

(b) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school;

(c) creates a hostile environment at school; or

(d) infringes on the rights of the student at school."

The Morris Hills Regional District takes a proactive approach to educating its students with regard to harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Morris Knolls High School and Morris Hills High School conduct various programs and meetings throughout the school year to address HIB to create a safe environment for all of its students. These include the following:

Class Meetings
Stand Up – Speak Up – End Bullying Program
Week of Respect
Postcard Project
Kindness Grams
Bully Documentary
Character Education curriculum
HIB Committee meetings throughout the school year
Lifelines Program
SOS Program
Presentations in the health classes
Presentations by the local police department
Anti-bullying Focus Groups
Utilization of HIBster software
Creation of Threat Assessment Teams

Any acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying should be reported to the Morris Knolls High School Anti-Bullying Specialist, Mrs. Danielle Gorski at 973-664-2213 or dvanderveken@mhrd.org or the Morris Hills High School Anti-Bullying Specialist, Ms. Nicole Gentile at 973-664-2319 or ngentile@mhrd.org. A complete copy of the Morris Hills Regional District Board of Education policy on harassment, intimidation and bullying (Policy 5512.01 and 5512.02) may be found on the main page of the district and school websites.

We look forward to partnering with you once again during the 2025 - 2026 school year as we work together to create a safe and respectful environment in our schools.

Sincerely,

Sonya Boyer – District Director of Special Services / District Anti-Bullying Coordinator
Maria Callanan – School Psychologist – Morris Knolls High School
Nicole Gentile – SAC / Anti-Bullying Specialist – Morris Hills High School
Danielle Gorski – SAC / Anti-Bullying Specialist – Morris Knolls High School
Ryan MacNaughton – Principal – Morris Knolls High School
Nicholas Norcia – Superintendent of the Morris Hills Regional District
Alyson Selzter – School Psychologist – Morris Hills High School
Todd M. Toriello, Ed.D. – Principal – Morris Hills High School