



Dear Parents/Guardian,

The mission of Vermilion Local School District is to provide each student with the knowledge and skills to be life ready. We value relationships, high expectations, personalization, communication, and innovation. We believe that a student's social-emotional learning is an important factor for lifelong success. Studies have shown that students with strong social-emotional skills do better academically, have fewer behavior problems, have less emotional distress, and maintain positive, productive relationships.

In this regard, Vermilion Local Schools has begun the process of providing social-emotional support linked directly to the developmental needs of students. All students Pre-K to 12 are participating in social-emotional lessons delivered by teachers and counselors. Teachers are also embedding social-emotional concepts within their academic instruction. These skills include instruction in five core competencies: self management, self awareness, responsible decision making, relationship skills and social awareness. The full list of competencies is attached to this letter.

In addition to providing social-emotional skills to all students, the district is dedicated to providing more targeted support to students who demonstrate a higher need. This support may include small group instruction, group and/or individual counseling by the school counselor, and/or referral to outside resources.

We are proud to announce our partnership with Ohio Guidestone for therapeutic behavior supports and mental health therapy and The LCADA Way for responsible decision making and resilience skill building. We are working collaboratively to ensure that all students receive the social, emotional, and behavioral skills necessary for life long success. In addition, we will soon be opening our school based health center that will support student's physical health and provide an additional resource for comprehensive care within our community.

Recently, the district began using a social-emotional screener (Panorama) to determine curricular and instructional needs for each building and to identify students who may be in need of more targeted instruction. Teachers are being asked to complete a rating scale related to a student's social, emotional, and academic health. Students will also be asked to complete their own survey. These scores are then analyzed at the building and district level to identify additional support that may be needed at the building, classroom, and student level.

Vermilion Local Schools is dedicated to working with families to develop healthy, well-rounded young people. Should you have any questions concerning our social-emotional initiative, contact Karen Blackburn, Director of Pupil Services, at 440-204-1701 ext. 336.