Richmond County School System

Parent Newsletter

Student Wellness & Safety

Dear Middle and High School Families,

We are excited to introduce several new supports for students in grades 6–12 this school year. These resources are designed to promote student wellness, strengthen connections, provide early support, and help students navigate the challenges they may experience during adolescence.

Our goal is simple: make sure students know where to turn and have access to support when they need it. Thank you for partnering with us to support the well-being, safety, and success of our students.

🌟 Alongside — A Tier 1 Student Resource

Alongside will be available as a universal, Tier 1 resource for students. It provides students with options to chat with professionals and tools and resources that can support their emotional well-being, help them manage challenges, and build positive coping and life skills. Because it is a Tier 1 support, it is designed to be available to all students, not just students experiencing a particular concern.

🧠 Student Safety & Awareness Education (Required by HB 268)

1 Hour of Suicide Awareness Education

Signs of Suicide: age-appropriate instruction focused on recognizing warning signs, understanding how to respond when someone may be struggling, and knowing how to connect with trusted adults and available supports.

1 Hour of Violence Prevention Education

SandyHook Promise: instruction designed to increase awareness, encourage students to speak up when they have concerns, and promote a safe and supportive school environment.

🤝 Why These Supports Matter

Adolescence brings many changes and challenges. We want every student to know: **You don't have to handle everything alone.**

These supports are part of our commitment to:

- 💙 Promote student mental and emotional wellness
- 🛡️ Strengthen school safety
- 🗣️ Encourage students to speak up and seek help
- 🤝 Connect students with caring adults and resources
- 🌱 Build skills for managing challenges
- ⭐ Support the success of the whole student
- 📌 Parent/Guardian Choice

💻 Telemental Health Services

Students will also have access to telemental health services, providing another avenue for students who may benefit from additional mental and emotional wellness support. This option expands our ability to connect students with appropriate support in a convenient and accessible way beyond the in-person option.

Scan to Opt-Out

We respect the role parents and guardians play in decisions regarding their child's education and well-being. You may opt-out of your child having access to the identified resources or participating in the associated instruction.

LEARN MORE