



*Guidance Department*

Deane-Porter: Jessica Piernik

Forrestdale: Nancy Pearson

Since the implementation of the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights* in September 2011, our school district has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the law. Rumson School District has made progress in addressing harassment, intimidation, and bullying, as well as improving the school climate and culture by focusing on students being respectful, responsible, safe, and full of P.R.I.D.E. In order to promote a positive school climate, our school district is teaching students social-emotional skills by using Responsive Classroom techniques, implementing Morning Meeting, and using Second Step character education lessons. While completing the self-assessment, we learned that our school district has demonstrated strengths in the following areas: *BOE approved HIB Policy trainings, other staff instruction & training programs, curriculum and instruction on HIB and related information & skills, HIB personnel, School-Level HIB incident reporting procedures, HIB investigative procedures, and HIB reporting.* The self-assessment helped our district identify areas of improvement in the area of: *HIB programs, approaches, and other initiatives.*

This year, our district is improving HIB programs, approaches, and other initiatives. Deane-Porter and Forrestdale teachers have been and are continuing to be trained in Morning Meeting by Kate Kret, a certified Responsive Classroom trainer. In addition, the district is starting to use Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports and a Restorative Approach to discipline. We also seek community involvement in our Parent Academy sessions for parents/guardians to understand a variety of childhood and teenage development issues and their impact on both learning and HIB. Some of the scheduled Parent Academy sessions include:

- *October 24 – HIB Refresher and Identifying At-Risk Behaviors*
- *January 23: Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset*
- *February: Dealing with the Winter Blues and all sorts of Anxiety*
- *May: Digital Citizenship*

Both Deane-Porter and Forrestdale plan to further assess strengths and vulnerabilities for learning by conducting a school climate survey at the end of the school year with members of the community, students, and staff. Also, our School Safety / Climate Committees will be meeting to develop, foster, and maintain a positive school climate by focusing on the ongoing, systematic operational procedures and educational practices in the school as well as to address issues such as HIB that affect school climate and culture.