RIGHTS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY: Erin's Law Middle School Presentation

Northwest Middle School NMS School Counselors December 7-11



BEFORE WE START...

Log on CANVAS Go to "NMS Student Support" course Click on "8th Grade School Counseling" Click on "SEL Pretest"

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

I can advocate for self in multiple settings using assertiveness skills

I can exercise personal safety skills, including refusal skills

I can appropriately utilize social media to enhance learning, develop positive relationships, communicate, and engage in appropriate entertainment.

I can distinguish appropriate behaviors for a variety of settings and situations



Which Animal are You?





Assertiveness



Demand (win-lose) Negotiate (win-win) You lose You win Withdraw (lose-lose) Concede (lose-win) We're Both Passive, OR Inse

What Is Self-Advocacy?

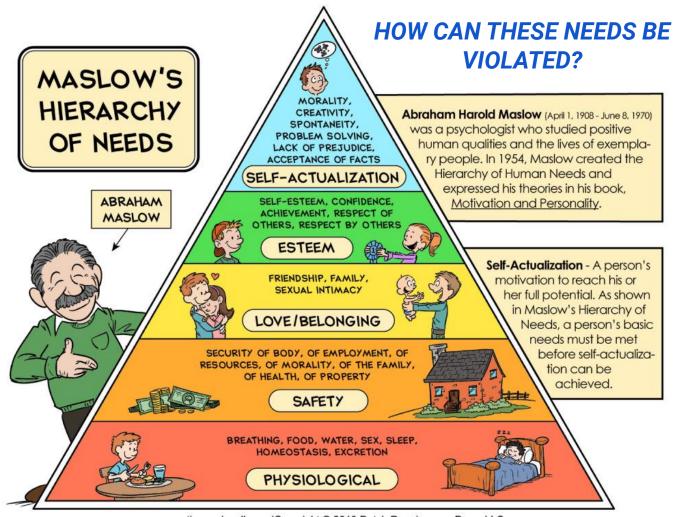
Self-advocacy is a skill that enables you to understand your strengths and weaknesses, know what you need to succeed, and communicate that to other people.

Self-advocacy can be broken down into a few key elements:

Understanding specific needs. (This is part of <u>self-awareness</u>.)

Knowing what help or support will address those needs, like tutoring or classroom <u>accommodations</u>.

Communicating those needs to teachers and others.



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Who is Erin Merryn?







How to Edit

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This is Erin Merryn...

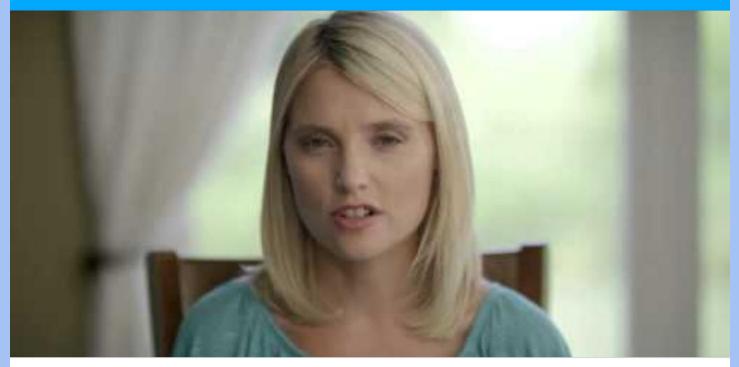
•Erin's Law is named after author, speaker and activist, Erin Merryn

•The law is designed to teach students techniques to recognize sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult

VICTIM or SURVIVOR??







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Grooming Method

The process by which an offender builds an emotional connection with a child to gain his/her trust with the purpose of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or sexual trafficking.

What do groomers do?

- Gain a child's trust and sometimes the child's family's trust too. Break down defenses.
- Manipulate (trick) a child into keeping unsafe secrets.
- Make a child feel loved by giving gifts or helping the family.
- Trick the child into thinking they share a "special bond."
- Sexualize the relationship causing the child to hide in shame and live in fear of others finding out.
- Intimidate and threaten the child.

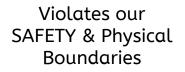
KINDS OF TOUCHES

Safe Touches

- Hugs
- Handshake
- Pats on the back

Unsafe Touches

- Punching
- Kicking
- Private Parts





Child Sexual Abuse – Child sexual abuse refers to the involvement of a child (person less than 18 years old) in sexual activity that violates the laws or social taboos of society and that he/she:

- does not fully comprehend
- does not consent to or is unable to give informed consent to, or
- is not developmentally prepared for and cannot give consent to

Examples:

- inappropriate comments or words in person/online (trolling)
- not respecting personal boundaries
- inappropriate touch (touching private parts w/o Consent)
- not respecting when someone says "no" (sexual assault)
- inappropriate acts on social media (trolling)

Sexual Abuse Online

When <u>sexual exploitation</u> happens online, young people may be persuaded or forced to:

- send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
- take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone
- have sexual conversations by text or online.

Abusers may threaten to send images, video or copies of conversations to the young person's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity.

Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the sexual abuse has stopped.



Sexual Harassment is a Crime!

Flirting ...

- Is welcome attention
- Goes both ways
- Makes you feel flattered or attractive
- Makes you feel in control
- Makes you feel good about yourself
- Is legal in school

Harassment...

- Is not wanted
- Is one-sided
- Makes you feel put down or ugly
- Makes you feel powerless
- Makes you feel bad or dirty
- Is a violation of school rules and state/federal laws

Safe Secrets

A Safe Secret is one that will eventually be told and will make everyone smile-like a surprise party or the gender of a baby-to-be.

VS.

Unsafe secrets

An Unsafe Secret is one that makes you feel confused, threatened, unsafe, or icky and is one that you are told not to tell.



SOUTHWEST PA SAYS



NO MORE Sexual Harassment in K-12 Schools

The #MeToo movement has focused on sexual harassment in the workplace, but sexual harassment begins much earlier. Middle and high school students say that sexual harassment from classmates, teachers and staff is a regular occurrence at school, that it is not taken seriously, and that perpetrators are rarely held accountable. The NO MORE K-12 video series features local high school students talking about the pervasiveness of sexual harassment in school.



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Tell Someone If....

- 1. A relationship or situation feels unsafe
- 2. You are being emotionally or physically threatened or harmed
- 3. You have an uncomfortable feeling about a relationship or situation with a friend or adult
- 4. You feel powerless in a relationship or situation
- 5. You are feeling peer pressure
- 6. A friend tells you they are unsafe or in danger

 Trusted adult – parent, friend's parent, police officer, religious member, sports coach

 School Staff -social worker, school counselor, school nurse, teacher, coach, principal

KEEP TALKING UNTIL SOMEONE HELPS!

Who Can Help?

What Happens Next?

- 1. You will be listened to, believed, supported, and cared for!
- 2. We will do everything we can to help keep you safe!
- 3. Law Enforcement/Child Protective Services will be contacted

Things to Remember...



- No one deserves to be abused or threatened. It is not the victim's fault.
- 2. You have a right to ask for help. Reporting abuse will not get you in trouble.
- 3. Talk to an adult you trust and respect
- 4. You need to take care of yourself
- 5. Sexual Abuse victims are biologically male or female and any sexual orientation

Resources for Help

- National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
- The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
- National Runaway Safeline: 1-800-RUN-AWAY or text 66008
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733
- <u>Reclaim 13: www.reclaim13.org; 630-209-4554</u>
- RAINN (Rape, Abuse, Incest, National Network

Time for Questions

If you have any questions or need to talk with me, please... See me after class or Submit a Counselor Referral in CANVAS's NMS Student Support