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Superintendent

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Dear Pennsbury Families,

Previously we shared our efforts to support students academically through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) program. The Pennsbury School District also uses the MTSS program to provide a safe and supportive environment for our students and staff. We believe that these efforts provide an essential foundation for the success of our students. The following are highlights of our work to support our students:

Physical Security

We are working diligently to be proactive in the area of physical safety. The District adopted the [ALICE](#) program and based on feedback, we have revised our communication plans in the event of an emergency. Student behavioral expectations are outlined in our [student code of conduct](#) and shared with students each fall. We are also in the process of upgrading our camera and security systems. Improving safety and security is a major driver of our planned move to one high school building.

Developing the Whole Child

Just as important as our physical security efforts, are our efforts in the area of supporting the social and emotional development of our students.

- Pennsbury has developed a [Character, Culture & Wellness Framework](#) that is infused throughout our curriculum to provide student-centered learning in the area of social-emotional learning (SEL). *SEL* refers to the ability to understand and manage emotions, develop positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. By teaching students SEL skills, we are equipping students with the tools they need to navigate through life's challenges, build healthy relationships, and make positive contributions to their communities. You can find more details [here](#).
- Our schools use a **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)** program. Called by different names in each school (e.g. SOAR or PAWS). PBIS is a set of ideas and tools used in schools to improve students' behavior. PBIS uses evidence and data-based programs, practices, and strategies to frame behavioral improvement relating to student growth in academic performance, safety, behavior, and establishing and maintaining a positive school culture.

Supporting the Mental Health of our Students

As we did last year, we will continue to administer a universal screening tool to middle and high school students. All 7th and 10th grade students will be screened during the Fall and Pennwood students in all grades will be screened as part of their PBIS Tier 2 implementation.

- **What is this screening, and how long will it take?** We use the [Behavioral Assessment System for Children Third Edition Behavioral and Emotional Screening System \(BASC\)](#). This brief screening tool typically takes less than 20

minutes to complete. Our students will complete these brief questionnaires, using an online student self-rating form during non-instructional time.

- **What will we do with the information?** Student needs will be addressed through the school district's [Multi-Tiered System of Support \(MTSS\)](#) framework. Our goal is to identify and help students who may need extra support. The data we will receive from this screener will assist us in widening the district's focus on the mental health needs of our students.

Family Supports

Your partnership is an important part of our work and we have developed the Pennsbury Parent/Family Academy to share information about the programs that will benefit your child. A schedule of the monthly programs is [available here](#).

You have our commitment that we will continue to work hard to ensure that in addition to our efforts to improve academics, we are committed to educating the “whole child” in Pennsbury.

Sincerely,

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As a reminder, Pennsbury uses [Safe2Say Something](#), an anonymous tip line, to alert us to any individual who may be struggling and/or in danger of causing harm to themselves or others. Every tip is investigated.