

I Accept RACHEL'S CHALLENGE



rachelschallenge.org

September 13, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

With technology changing and advancing before our eyes, so too are our students and how they communicate with each other on a daily basis. Students today are faced with different challenges than any of us had to face at their age and it seems that violence, bullying, and cyberbullying are at the top of that list of challenges to hurdle on a daily basis. Post Covid, we have observed that an alarming number of students have come back to the school environment with feelings of anxiety, depression, thoughts of self-harm along with resorting to fighting in order to solve problems.

As educators and parents we provide as many interventions and resources as we can in order to protect our students and children. At Sharon we are finding that it not only takes us, it takes a community to come together and raise awareness of the challenges that our students face in order to create a chain reaction for positive change. We feel that the implementation of the internationally recognized and evidenced-based program, ***Rachel's Challenge*** will help our students to motivate others with kindness and compassion and to encourage both student and adult leaders to transform our school and community.

This letter is to inform all parents and students of our live *Rachel's Challenge* assembly on October 5, 2022. Students in grades 7-12 and faculty will hear about the inspiring story of Rachel Joy Scott, a student who wanted to make the world a better place, whose life was taken in an act of violence at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. Students will hear from relatives and friends of Rachel and how she continues her mission even through death. Because this program does revolve around the circumstances in which Rachel was tragically taken, there will be guidance counselors and mental health specialists on site from Sharon Middle/High School as well as Mercer County Behavioral Health in the event a student needs support during the program. We believe that this program is and will continue to be impactful for years to come!

We encourage you to reach out to us at the Middle/High School Office at 724-983-4030 if you have questions or concerns about your child attending this event. Parents can also access more information about ***Rachel's Challenge*** at the following website:

<http://www.rachelschallenge.org>

Yours in Education,
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Mrs. Dawn Blair, and Dr. Brandon Richards
Administrators
Sharon Middle/High School