



31 August 2017

Dear Teachers, Principals, Community Leaders, Presenters and Parents,

Thanks so much for the last 24 hours and your participation, your commitment, your positive involvement and your dedication to our students and our community. The presentations from last night to this morning were a terrific first step on helping our kids and adults understand the dangers around sexuality and technology. I appreciate the time each of you gave to make this a successful event.

Holyoke School District, like any school district, will continue to struggle with the issues around technology and how it impacts our children. While this may never appear to be perfect, with your help we can take steps and support our kids as they move through a technological world. One of the biggest takeaways for me over the past 24 hours has been the notion and concept of a trusted adult. While we all know this is important, we can always strive to improve and make things better. There are many of you- teachers, pastors, parents and friends that can and do play that role every day. Let's up our game on this. Let's be here more than ever for our students. Let's see how we can be even better at this. It's the challenge we need to rise to because not rising to it can have a lifetime of adverse effects. Let's help our students, especially our tweens (10-12 year olds) and our teens to make it through one of the roughest age spans of any person's life and one of the most productive as well.

Thank you so much for what you do and we look forward to working with you through a series of these types of presentations over the next several months. We are shooting for another community presentation in mid to late October which will help follow up around other critical issues for our kids and our role in how to support them.

With gratitude,

John McCleary, Superintendent
Holyoke School District

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