

January 8, 2009

Dear parent, guardian or other family member,

As part of National No-Name Calling Week, the 7H team is planning a unit on respect and anti-bullying. For this unit, we have selected a curriculum introduced to the faculty by the BJHS Respect Committee: *Let's Get Real*, an award-winning video with standards-aligned lesson plans.

Let's Get Real gives a voice to all types of kids affected by name-calling and bullying. The students in the video are real students, and the only people in the video. The creators of this documentary "hope that *Let's Get Real* will help kids begin to see a bit of themselves in one another – and give them the courage to express their own feelings."

As we spotlight this topic, students may have strong emotional responses as the film may remind them of their own personal experiences. The students in the film use their own language to describe their experiences; therefore, some of the words used are not considered appropriate in our classrooms. Pre and post-viewing activities will address why these words exist, their impact and how to reduce their use in the school setting.

Our purpose in selecting and showing this film is to speak honestly about an issue that affects our students. The film and lesson plans go beyond general conversations and lectures and truly search for positive ways to deal with the issues. Since students courageously share their experiences and feelings, one student mentions feeling hopeless (touching on the issue of suicide) and another student talks about feeling so frustrated with his harassers that he wants to hurt them (touching on the issue of gun violence). We again will discuss these topics and students will know where they can turn if they or a friend are dealing with similar feelings.

The video will be shown to all students on Friday, January 23, in the afternoon. Previewing activities will take place prior to the video. Lessons will continue throughout the rest of the year (with clips of the video being shown at different times).

We would like to invite you to view this video with the 7H teachers during our planning time (1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m., room 133) on January 21. Also, if you are interested in viewing samples of the resources we will be using, you may visit <http://groundspark.org/our-films-and-campaigns/lets-get-real>.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. Don't hesitate to call (827-0086) or email (huttons@district87.org) if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Suzie Hutton

7H Co-Team Leader

If for any reason you **DO NOT WANT** your student to participate in this unit, please contact Suzie Hutton.

Phone: 827-0086

Email: huttons@district87.org

*You may also send a note with the student.