

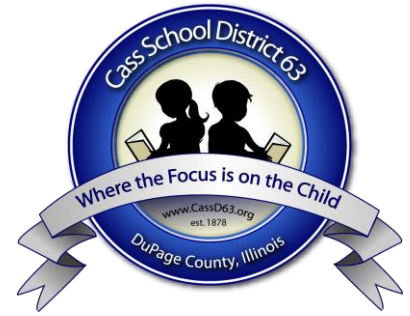
# CASS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333  
331-481-4000 • Fax 331-236-0338 • cmarcinkewicz@casd63.org

*Mrs. Christine Marcinkewicz*

School Principal & District Director of Technology



January 2023

Dear 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

The safety and well-being of our adolescents is a major concern of parents today. Cass Junior High School recognizes this and is responding to these concerns by participating in the Teens Taking Charge program (TTC) presented by the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Patterson & McDaniel Family Center.

- **The Center for Disease Control states:**

Approximately 11 million women and 5 million men who reported experiencing contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime also indicated that they first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before the age of 18.

- **The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault states that:**

1 out of 4 young people will experience some type of sexual violence before the age of 18. Of those, over 90% will be assaulted by someone they know and trust.

- **According to a survey done by Seventeen magazine through Wellesley College Center for Research on Women**

85% of girls and 76% of boys reported that while in school they experienced "unwanted, unwelcome, sexual behavior that interfered with their lives, both personally and academically".

In 2013, Erin's Law and the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Act were signed into law. These laws state that all schools must have policies that address sexual abuse and teen dating violence. The policies should help parents and school staff recognize and respond to any sexual abuse allegations, and dating violence. The policies should also help students to recognize dangerous situations whether they are abuse situations or dating violence and know what to do to keep themselves safe.

## Administrative Office

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*Mark R. Cross*

Superintendent

## Concord Elementary School

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*Laura Anderson, Ed.D.*

School Principal & District Director of Teaching & Learning

The TTC Program focuses on three components:

1. Relationships – helping students learn what a healthy relationship looks like and feels like. It will also address when relationships begin to go bad, how do to recognize that and what can they do to get help.
2. Sexual Assault Prevention – students will identify different types of abuse and sexual assault through an exercise using a continuum of violence. They will be encouraged to listen to their instincts to avoid dangerous situations and finally they will get resources on where to go for help.
3. Sexual Harassment, Cyber Bullying and Sexting – students will learn what sexual harassment is and what to do if they feel like they are being sexually harassed. They will gain a clearer understanding of what cyber bullying is and what sexting is. They will learn about the new laws concerning cyber bullying and sexting and what to do if they are cyber bullied or have texts sent to them.

Throughout the program the Educators from the YWCA will be helping the students to identify a safety network of adults that they can go to if they have any problems or concerns

Beginning on January 27, 2023, YWCA Prevention Educators will be presenting the Teens Taking Charge program to seventh grade students. There will be subsequent follow up lessons on teambuilding days throughout the school year. If you wish to opt your child out of this program, please email me at [cmarcinkewicz@cassd63.org](mailto:cmarcinkewicz@cassd63.org). If you have any questions regarding your student presentation, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Christine Marcinkewicz*

Mrs. Christine Marcinkewicz  
Principal  
Cass Junior High School