



Think...  
Have Empathy  
Respect Differences  
Identify Feelings  
Value Yourself  
Emanate Kindness

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Since 2008, the K-5 *Take a Stand* proactive anti-bullying program has been taught in all primary and elementary schools in Summit, two years prior to New Jersey's official Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

In order to be more attentive to the social-emotional needs of our students, we have expanded this program to focus on positive relationship building, with activities that will help students expand on their understanding of each topic and apply strategies to help them problem solve situations. Research shows that having these skills helps children feel more confident and ready to learn thus leading to higher levels of academic success.

The philosophy of the program has always relied on the partnership of all staff members to create a safe environment in which all children are able to learn. Teachers, in collaboration with counselors, share the lessons at every grade level. Parents and guardians are provided with lesson objectives and a link to the curriculum in order to reinforce the lessons at home, making this a truly collaborative effort.

We've re-named the program *THRIVE* because to thrive is to be successful, healthy, and strong. We believe that the combination of the anti-bullying skills being taught and the addition of positive relationship building lessons added to our curriculum will help ensure that all of our students will thrive!

Each month teachers will deliver *THRIVE* lessons in every K-5 classroom in the district. Lessons are adapted to the developmental level of each grade and are organized across all grades.

FAQs:

1. *Where do I find the lessons?* Click here: [THRIVE website](#) or here: [SEL Spot website](#) (this website contains a link to THRIVE and a whole lot more!)
2. *Why can't I view some of the videos?* Some videos may contain pictures of Summit students. This is a privacy issue since our website is live on the internet.
3. *What if my child was absent on the day of the lesson?* You can access the lesson and materials on the website and review it with your child.
4. *What if I have questions about a lesson?* You can contact your child's teacher or school counselor.

The first *THRIVE* lesson will be taught this week in your child's classroom. The topic is:

***Including Others/Respecting Differences***

Please take this opportunity to begin an ongoing discussion in your household. Moving forward, these parent letters will be posted monthly on our district [SEL Spot website](#).

Here's wishing everyone a safe and successful school year!  
~The Summit K-5 Thrive team