



LAKEWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Dear Lakewood Parent and/or Guardian,

As children grow and explore the world around them, it is crucial that we equip them with the knowledge and skills to navigate various situations safely. Teaching elementary students about personal safety is not about instilling fear; rather, it is about empowering them with confidence and awareness.

Over the next several weeks, Lakewood elementary students will have an opportunity to attend a personal safety presentation at their school. These presentations will be provided by staff from our school based counseling partner agencies, often in collaboration with school staff such as the Family Resource Coordinator (FRC) or Student Wellness Specialist (SWS).

The presentation will cover the following topics:

- **Body Safety:** Students will be taught to understand and respect their own bodies and to recognize what is appropriate and inappropriate touch. We emphasize that they have the right to say "no" and to report any uncomfortable situations to a trusted adult.
- **Safe Strangers and Tricky People:** Students will be helped to differentiate between safe strangers (like a police officer or store clerk) and "tricky people" who may try to lure them into unsafe situations. We teach them to trust their instincts and to seek help from a trusted adult if they feel uneasy.
- **Online Safety:** In today's digital world, it is more important than ever to teach children about online safety. Students will be given guidance on what information is safe to share online, the dangers of interacting with strangers on the internet, and how to report cyberbullying or other harmful online behavior.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Students will be guided in what to do in case of household or medical emergency, or if they get lost.

Having these conversations and providing education on child sexual abuse prevention and sexual violence prevention is intended to build a foundation of resilience and self-advocacy in our children and is a required part of the district's curriculum as outlined in state law. We are teaching them to be confident, to trust their instincts, and to know that they have a support system of trusted adults they can turn to.



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We encourage you to continue these conversations at home. By working together, we can ensure our children have the tools they need to stay safe and thrive in an ever-changing world. Following the presentation, you will receive information meant to support ongoing discussions of safety and emergency preparedness as well resources for seeking support for students.

We recognize and honor that parents/caregivers are our students' first and most important teachers, especially when it comes to their personal development. Parents have the fundamental right to make decisions regarding the upbringing and control of their children. The school district shall not in any manner inhibit your access to your child's education and health records maintained by the school.

While this presentation is intended to provide a basic understanding of personal safety in general, we recognize this topic may raise more questions than a short educational experience can address. As such, students may come home with questions or a desire to know more. *If families need additional information to engage in these discussions, or would like the opportunity to examine the presentation materials prior to their child's participation in the presentation, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Tina Karp, Coordinator of Mental Health Resources (tina.karp@lakewoodcityschools.org).*

While we hope all students will take part in this opportunity, parents/guardians may opt their student out by completing the section below and returning it to the school office. **If you want your child to participate, there is no need to do anything. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Karp or your building principal.**

In partnership,

Dr. Stephanie Morgan

Director of Student Services

_____ *detach here + return to school* _____

I, _____, parent of _____ do NOT want
(print parent/guardian name) (print child name)

my child to attend the 26-27 Personal Safety Presentation.

Parent/Guardian signature