We are pleased to announce that our school has enrolled with HELPme, by STOPit Solutions. HELPme is a technology platform to assist students, parents, and staff in asking for and privately accessing a wide variety of help and resources.

Our aim with HELPme is to provide:

- Private access to basic needs resources,
- Convenient linkage to school, community, local, state, and federal resources and helplines,
- A culture that recognizes that all of us need help at different points in our life and asking for help is an important life skill.

HELPme is a tool that works by empowering students, parents, and staff to access help they need with dignity and privacy. All parties will have access to the HELPme mobile app, which has three main features:



- GET HELP can be used to anonymously request help from <u>local</u> school contacts, including
 Messenger which allows anonymous two-way communication between school contacts and help
 requesters.
- CRISISTEXTLINE can be access directly from the app to text with <u>non-local</u> trained crisis counselors
- 3. **GET RESOURCES** can be used to search community, local, state, and federal resources and helplines

No personal information is needed to use HELPme. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through HELPme is if a requester voluntarily includes it within the content of a request or message.

Both our school and HELPme are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the <u>Student Privacy Pledge</u>, spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association. You may review STOPit's <u>Privacy Policy</u> for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

Please note that we will be launching HELPme for the 2024-2025 school year. Your child will have access to the HELPme app on their school device. They can also download the app to their personal device on their personal smartphone or tablet at no charge, so they can access this resource outside of school hours.

We encourage you to download the HELPme app and search for your student's school using the directory. You can privately ask for help for your student, family, others you care about, or even acquaintances who appear to need help. For a video on how to use HELPme, go to this link.

Together, we can make sure everyone in our community gets what they need to thrive.