

NANUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS
A. MACARTHUR BARR MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Michelle O'Sullivan
Principal

Lisa Brady, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Latoya Oates
Assistant Principal

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Dear A. MacArthur Barr Middle School Parents,

The New York State Education Department has provided guidance and resources to schools to comply with NYS Law S.4070-B/A.2577-B, also known as "Erin's Law". Erin's Law is named for Erin Merryn, an abuse survivor and activist against child sexual abuse. The law requires public schools to teach age-appropriate, child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The law is intended to help children, teachers, and parents in New York State schools identify sexual abuse, and to provide awareness, assistance, referral, or resource information for children and families who are victims of child sexual abuse.

Research has shown that the more informed children are, the less likely they are to be victims. It is our goal to empower our students on how to keep themselves safe, and to engage in healthy relationships, by providing them with information in a developmentally appropriate manner. Over the next few months members of our staff, including our Social Worker, Ms. Manon, our Psychologists, Mrs. Feola and Mrs. Aguirre and our Health teacher, Ms. Scalisi, will be conducting age appropriate lessons with each of the grade levels. These staff members are experienced in conducting age-appropriate sensitive conversations with children.

In these lessons, they will explain how Erin's Law was created to ensure that schools teach children about personal body safety. Students will learn how to recognize healthy and unhealthy behaviors in relationships with peers and adults. Topics will include boundaries in relationships, communication, making safe choices both in person and while online, and learning how to talk to a trusted adult at home and at school.

To explore the topics broken down by grade level, we encourage you to [visit the NYSED's online Erin's law page](#). Additionally, the NYSED has developed a [resource grid](#) to help provide resources parents may use to discuss some of these topics with their children, as well as gain a better understanding of what Erin's Law is and how it is intended to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

Please feel free to contact our psychologists if you have any questions or would like to discuss Erin's Law in greater detail.

5th and 6th grade: Ms. Aguirre at aaguirre93@nanuetsd.org

7th and 8th grade: Mrs. Feola at jalba@nanuetsd.org

Thank you,

Michelle O'Sullivan, Principal
Judith Heaney, Director of Student Support Services