

"Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community"

Jeffery Russell, Ed. D.

AREA SUPERINTENDENT FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to inform you that our school has enrolled with STOPit!

<u>STOPit</u> is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features.

Report can be used by students to report incidents to school contacts anonymously.

Messenger can be used to engage in anonymous two-way communication with school contacts.

Both Report and Messenger empower students to stand up for themselves and for one another. Students have the power to help put an end to harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or are otherwise in need of assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder, school communities both online and off.

No student information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a student voluntarily includes it within the content of a report or message.

Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the <u>Student</u> <u>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 Stopit is available now for each school in the district and we will be going over the program and launching it with students in our English Classes across the district in the coming days. At that time, your child will be invited to download the STOPit app from the app store on his or her smartphone or tablet at no charge. More information and resources can be found online at <u>stopitsolutions.com</u>.

Dr. Jeff Russell Area Superintendent

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W. S. Ryan Elementary School access code: WSRyanElementary