



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear Bayonne Community,

As you have probably heard, we are trying a new anti-violence, conflict, H.I.B. initiative at Bayonne High School. This initiative is in addition to our current policies, procedures and New Jersey laws. In short, we are more student focused on conflict resolution and incentivizing good behavior with a student focused approach. Over the past 2 1/2 months I have been meeting with about 75 student leaders from the high school over lunch to discuss conflict, bullying, fighting, and how we may stop it. We have garnered many great ideas from some of the student leadership groups. There is a plethora of ideas the students have come up with to prevent bullying, conflict and fighting, while rewarding positive behavior. One of the ideas is half days - either early dismissal or late arrival once a month. To demonstrate that we are 100% on board with our students to affect change we are offering a half-day this Friday to Bayonne High School as a show of good faith, that we follow-up on promises, and demonstrate that we are very interested in the behavior of our students. Our common goals are to be a learning environment with minimal to no Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying and maximum caring for each other.

We will embrace this opportunity for our community schools, as well, in the future and embrace a district culture of conflict free zones. Our student leaders from Bayonne High School will be visiting all of our community schools and speaking to all of our students, in the near future, as we develop a plan.

Thank you everyone for your patience and support as we try a new approach to end violence and conflict in our schools. Being the first at something is never easy. However, the upside of this could be very impactful for our students. To update all of you - so far today, in discussing this with every high school student, the results have been very positive.

Thank you very much and I appreciate the support.

Sincerely,

John J. Niesz
Superintendent of Schools

"The Youth of Today. The Leaders of Tomorrow."