

West Running Brook Middle School  
1 West Running Brook Lane  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038

April 21, 2017

### Making Good Choices Survey

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Making Good Choices (MGC) survey is an annual survey of perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors, administered to middle school students in Derry and all of New Hampshire. This year the survey will take place on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> during WIN, so instructional time will not be compromised.

The survey was first created in 2000 as the "It's My Life" survey, and after several years the title changed to "Making Good Choices." It is a collaborative endeavor of the Community Alliance for Teen Safety (CATS), the Derry Cooperative School District (DCSD), University of New Hampshire Survey Center (UNH), and professional evaluators who develop and revise the survey yearly. The purpose of the survey is to identify issues affecting the health and safety of Derry's youth, and youth across our state.

The continual tracking of progress made toward reducing risky behaviors and promoting healthy ones has provided a rich database of findings, which makes it possible to identify trends, successes, and ongoing concerns. This is a remarkable accomplishment, and more and more middle schools across the country are conducting surveys of this nature. Our guidance counselors utilize the results to determine classroom, small group, and individual interventions.

The MGC survey is completely anonymous and confidential, with extensive procedures in place to safeguard the results so no individual student's responses could ever be identified. There are absolutely no costs to the DCSD, as CATS covers all printing, analysis, and other supplies such as pencils, envelopes, and packaging.

If you would like to come to school to view a copy of the MGC survey, please contact the main office and ask to speak with your child's counselor to set up an appointment. If you prefer to have your child opt out of taking the survey, you must make that request in a letter or email to me no later than Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. As always, if you have any questions, please contact one of our counselors or administrators. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Leslie Saucier  
Principal