



MORRIS KNOLLS HIGH SCHOOL

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September 2024

Dear Morris Hills Regional District Community:

The Morris Hills Regional Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and disciplined environment. The Morris Hills Regional District prides itself on providing a safe learning environment for all of its students.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying is defined under N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14: as:

“Any gesture, written, verbal or physical act, or electronic communication, whether a single incident or series of incidents, AND

That is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, AND

That takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus or off school grounds that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school, AND that:

- a. a reasonable person should know will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing the student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or property; or
- b. has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school;
- c. creates a hostile environment at school; or
- d. infringes on the rights of the student at school.”

The Morris Hills Regional District takes a proactive approach to educating its students with regard to harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Morris Knolls High School and Morris Hills High School conduct various programs and meetings throughout the school year to address HIB and create a safe environment for all of its students. These include the following:

- Class Meetings
- NJ Support Services
- Week of Respect
- Kindness Grams
- School Wide Assemblies
- Character Education Curriculum
- Health Class Presentations
- Denville Township Police Department Presentations
- Anti-bullying Focus Groups
- Wellness Fair
- Utilization of HIBSTER Software.
- Suicide Prevention Programs

Any acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying should be reported to the Morris Knolls Anti-Bullying Specialist, Ms. Danielle Gorski at 973-664-2213 or dvanderveken@mhrd.org or the Morris Hills Anti-Bullying Specialist, Ms. Nicole Gentile at 973-664-2319 or ngentile@mhrd.org. A complete copy of the Morris Hills Regional District Board of Education policy on harassment, intimidation and bullying (Policy 5512.01 and 5512.02) may be found on the main page of the district and school websites.

We look forward to partnering with you once again during the 2024 - 2025 school year as we work together to create a safe and respectful environment in our schools.

Sincerely,

Sonya Boyer – District Director of Special Services
Maria Callanan – School Psychologist – Morris Knolls High School
Nicole Gentile – Student Assistance Counselor / Anti-Bullying Specialist – Morris Hills High School
Danielle Gorski – Student Assistance Counselor / Anti-Bullying Specialist – Morris Knolls High School
Ryan MacNaughton – Principal – Morris Knolls High School
Nicholas Norcia – Superintendent – Morris Hills Regional District
Alyson Pospisil – School Psychologist – Morris Hills High School
Todd Toriello – Principal – Morris Hills High School