



GORDON C. SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Marylu T. Lerz
Principal

Mary Jean Mangione
Assistant Principal

October 2, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the course of this past week, I have been investigating and addressing an act of "cyber bullying" that involved several Swift Middle School students. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about "cyber bullying" and assure you that the school administration does not tolerate such behavior and that we are committed to providing a safe, healthy and positive learning environment for all of our children.

Last Friday, a Swift student was the target of "cyber bullying" by a group of other Swift students through the social networking site *Facebook*. "Cyber bullying" is defined as the use of computer systems, including email, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging or the use of social networking websites, or other forms of electronic communications, to commit acts of bullying.

As a school community we work to maintain and support a positive school climate through a variety of structures. These structures include the teaming process, developmental guidance, curriculum that promotes the teaching of tolerance and respect for differences, parent communication, and the implementation of the district's discipline policy. We are committed to this work and will not tolerate behavior that is so hurtful and detrimental to the learning experience of students. I know that you will continue to speak with your child about the importance of exhibiting cordial and respectful communication with his/her peers in all settings, inclusive of the internet.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions regarding this communication please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Marylu Lerz
Marylu Lerz
Principal