

Hello Parents,

The “[Be Seen and Heard](#)” program, designed to help protect our students from sexual abuse, is moving forward. Initial staff trainings have been conducted and each school site will be presenting the program starting October 30 through the holidays. Each school site will present the program on a chosen day with additional counseling support available. The schedule by site will be available soon. The program is about an hour and will be followed up with three additional reminders of about 2 to 5 minutes each throughout the rest of the school year.

In addition to the staff training, there was also a parent meeting with a program overview and Q & A session. Points of emphasis about the program objectives include:

- Empowering children who may be victims of abuse with a voice to speak up with the reassurance that they are neither alone nor to blame.
- Equipping all children with a basic understanding of appropriate body privacy and body safety rules.
- Scaling the presentation of this sensitive topic to various grade spans with age appropriate concepts and language.

The main question that parents have asked is how to talk with their children about this topic. It is encouraged that parents allow their students to attend the program presentation with an open mind without pre-discussion. Parents are encouraged to further the discussion following the program to help ensure that students each have “trusted adult heroes” and know how to apply their body safety rules by saying: “no...and go tell someone you know, and trust.” The body safety rules as well as an example of how the program teaches these concepts to our youngest students can be previewed at: <http://mhusd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BSH-E-BOOK.pdf>

No program presentations will occur during the week of October 23 through October 27 to provide parents with an opportunity to “opt out.” If you have additional questions, please contact your school principal or Glen Webb, Director of Curriculum: webbgl@mhusd.org.

To “opt out” parents may either email or call their school, or email their child’s name, school, and grade to webbgl@mhusd.org. Students who “opt out” will be provided with an alternative activity related to their regular class work.

Our school district thanks all parents for their partnership and support as we work towards making our community a safer place for children.

Thank you

Glen Webb, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.