

For the Home – *Circles of Care* Safe Environment Program, Grade 9
Theme: Protection from Abusive conduct

[Place on School Letterhead]

[Date]

Dear Parents,

The safety of your children is always uppermost in your mind. We have taken many additional steps in recent years to do our part in ensuring that your children will be in a safe place at ____ [School] _____. All of our staff and volunteers have received the required background checks and training. We are implementing a program entitled “*Circles of Care* Safe Environment Program” to help your children recognize the steps they can take to keep themselves safe. Lesson plans have been prepared for different age groups among the students.

This year’s lesson is entitled “Protection from Abusive Conduct.” During the lesson, the students will learn to identify the risk factors associated with sexual abuse, and develop a plan for responding to and supporting others in a crisis situation, and will be provided with information and tools to identify and steer away from questionable and potentially dangerous situations.

We are also enclosing information sheets that may help you with matters that can affect your own children: “Q and A” from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; Tips on Internet Use, Social Networking and Telephone Use, borrowed from the Diocese of Joliet; and resources from www.connectsafely.com: “Social Web Tips for Parents,” “Social Web Tips for Teens,” “How to use Facebook Privacy Settings,” and “How Social Influencing Works.” As children grow, it is helpful to review this information and apply it to the new set of circumstances that children face in these early teenage years.

You are encouraged to spend some time reviewing the enclosed documents yourself, and then sitting down with your children. Each of the “rules” noted contains some application to common sense safety tips that you may share with your children. Other parts of the “rules” apply to some of the decisions that you make as parents for the safety of your children. A question and answer segment provides some suggestions on how you can best address these concerns with them. Naturally, household policies may change in your child’s first year in high school to reflect a growing maturity and sense of responsibility on the part of your son or daughter. Our goal is to equip both you and your children with the knowledge that can help to keep them safe.

The basic point is that parents need to be involved with their children. The more you know about the daily events of your children’s lives, the better you are able to spot any danger signs that may surface. The more regular your communication with your children, the more free they are to come to you with their concerns.

May our Lord bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
[Principal]