



South Park Middle School
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South Park School District

February 14, 2019

South Park Middle School Families:

As part of our continuing efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, we are pleased to announce that Rachel's Challenge will be coming to South Park Middle School this month. Rachel's Challenge equips and inspires individuals to replace acts of violence, bullying, and negativity with acts of respect, kindness, and compassion. Rachel's Challenge is based on the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott who was the first victim of the Columbine High School shootings in 1999. More than two million students experience Rachel's Challenge every year. The South Park Middle School student council was instrumental in bringing Rachel's Challenge to our school. Student council members initiated the discussions, and various fundraisers helped to make this a reality.

On Tuesday, February 26, 2019, South Park Middle School students will be introduced to Rachel's Challenge. Through age-appropriate presentations, the distribution of materials, and follow-up discussions, the program will challenge students to show compassion, learn from their mistakes, and forgive themselves and others. Groups of students will also be trained to reach out to other students and foster a positive school culture. That evening at 6:30 p.m., we will host a presentation for South Park Middle School parents and guardians in the South Park Middle School LGI Room. The presentation will share Rachel's story and how the program is positively impacting school climate. This presentation is not intended for students ages 12 and under.

Rachel's Challenge is so much more than an anti-bullying program. It champions compassion in schools and communities. As Rachel wrote in her final school essay, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

We are looking forward to beginning this nationwide program at South Park Middle School later this month.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Monaghan, M.Ed.
Principal

Lynn C. Como, M.Ed.
Assistant Principal