

Rupert A. Nock Middle School

70 Low Street, Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950
Tel.: 978-465-4448 • Fax: 978-465-4074

Elizabeth Collins Raucci, Principal • Lisa Furlong, Assistant Principal

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 19, 2013

Dear Seventh Grade Parent,

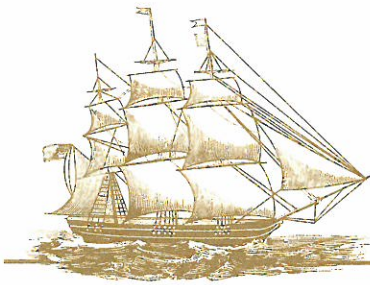
The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health - conducts the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in selected public schools in every odd-numbered year. The YRBS focuses on the major risk behaviors that threaten the health and safety of young people. This anonymous survey includes questions about tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behaviors that might lead to unintended pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease, dietary behaviors, physical activity, and behaviors associated with intentional or unintentional injuries. Data from the YRBS provide accurate estimates of the prevalence of risk behaviors among our students and are important for planning health education and risk prevention programs in Newburyport.

On Friday, November 22nd, the Nock Middle School, in cooperation with the Beacon Coalition (the city's substance abuse prevention initiative), will be administering the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to seventh grade students. This will be the 7th time the survey will be completed by Newburyport students since 2001. Results will be presented to the community in March by the Beacon Coalition.

As a parent of a seventh grader you have the opportunity to choose whether or not you would like your child to participate in this survey. This paper and pencil survey consists of multiple choice questions and will take one regular class period to complete. There are no physical tests or exams involved. Your child's participation is **voluntary and anonymous**; no names will ever be collected, used, or reported. Valid results of this survey depend on high participation rates among students, but participation is entirely voluntary. There will be no negative consequences for your child, you, or the school if your child does not participate.

If you do **not** want your son/daughter to participate in the survey, complete the form below and return it to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday morning, November 22nd. If you have any questions regarding the survey you are welcome to contact me at the middle school office or Andi Egmont at (978) 465-4434. Thank you for your cooperation with this important research effort.

Sincerely yours,
Beth Raucci
Principal



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I wish to excuse my child, _____,
from taking the Youth Risk Behavior Survey on Friday, November 22, 2013.

Parent Signature: _____

Date _____