



Rupert A. Nock Middle School

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Elizabeth Collins Raucci, Principal • Lisa Furlong, Assistant Principal

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 17, 2015

Dear Parent,

We will be administering the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to seventh graders within the next week. The information collected by this survey will help the Newburyport school system improve school health education programs aimed at preventing and reducing health risk behaviors among youth.

The survey is completed in cooperation with the BEACON Coalition (the city's substance abuse prevention initiative). This will be the 8th time we have completed this survey since 2001. Results will be presented to the community in March by the BEACON Coalition.

This year we are also asking parents to complete a parent survey online. The survey is designed to collect adult perceptions and insights on underage drug and alcohol use. The survey will be emailed to you. We would appreciate your participation. The results will also be presented in March.

This paper and pencil survey consists of multiple choice questions and will take one regular explore 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. The survey will ask about tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use activity; behaviors related to intentional and unintentional injuries; eating habits and physical activity; and behaviors related to HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and unintended pregnancy.

Valid results 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 please contact either Jay Murphy at jaymurphy@newburyport.k12.ma.us or Beth Raucci at braucci@newburyport.k12.ma.us by Thursday, November 19th. If we do not hear from you we will assume that permission is granted to participate.

Thank you,

Beth Raucci
Jay Murphy