

**Trinity Oaks Elementary School**

**1827 Trinity Oaks Blvd. • New Port Richey, FL 34655**

**Phone (727) 774-0900 • Fax (727) 774-0991**

**Allison Hoskins, Principal Tammy Sutula, Assistant Principal**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your child will be engaging in classroom lessons mandated by Florida legislation for the remainder of the school year in the following areas: child trafficking education and substance use and abuse prevention.

**Child Trafficking:**

*State Mandate:*

“Tallahassee, Fla., September 30, 2019 **–** The State Board of Education unanimously approved a new rule requiring instruction in child trafficking prevention for students in grades K-12. With this approval, Florida will be the first state in the nation to address the need for instruction in child trafficking prevention. The new rule also establishes procedures for school districts to plan and document delivery of the required instruction.”

*Rationale:*

Florida is third in the nation for numbers of reported cases of human trafficking, and the average age of trafficked youth is 11 to 13 years old. In 2018, there were 767 human trafficking cases reported in Florida. Of those cases, 149 were minors. Up to 70 percent of sex trafficking and exploitation begins with predators connecting with youth online. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one out of eight endangered runaway youth is likely a victim of human trafficking.

*Implementation:*

Students in grades K-5 will receive the mandated education through a program known as Safer, Smarter Kids. This program was developed by the Lauren’s Kids Organization with the assistance of other lifelong educators, sexual violence prevention experts, and developmental psychologists, with support and oversight from the Florida Department of Education and the University of Florida. This program uses engaging videos and in-class activities that enable all children to effectively learn critical safety strategies.

**Substance Use and Abuse:**

*State Mandate:*

“Tallahassee, Fla., August 21, 2019 **–**Today, Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran applauded the State Board of Education for requiring accountability in the delivery of age appropriate substance use and abuse health education for students in grades K-12. This initiative builds on similar requirements for mental health education adopted by the State Board of Education last month. The new requirement takes effect this school year.”

*Rationale:*

“The State Board of Education is committed to putting the needs of students first,” said Chair Andy Tuck. “We firmly believe that a balanced education that includes instruction on substance use and abuse is absolutely essential to a student’s lifelong success.”

*Implementation:*

Students in grades K-5 will have two options to receive this education. The first option is school participation in Red Ribbon week in the fall semester. The second option is education with the use of Everfi curriculum to be delivered in the classroom. The option is to be determined by the school administration.

If you have any questions related to this letter, you may contact Kerri Gemmellaro at kgemmell@pasco.k12.fl.us. For more information on the state mandates please visit: <http://www.fldoe.org/>

Sincerely,

Allison Hoskins, Principal

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