

Honeywell Update- October 8, 2015

Good evening Highland Park. This is Dr. Taylor with a message about our school district's efforts to promote our children and young adults' social-emotional skills.

Our school district's diversity is one of its greatest assets. With diversity comes the need for a deep understanding of our differences and a recognition that these differences are what make Highland Park a wonderful community.

To increase empathy and social awareness among our youngest children, the Irving School faculty and staff, thanks in part to the leadership of Principal Kelly Freeborn, have implemented The Responsive Classroom throughout the school. All grades PreK-2 children are welcomed to their rooms with a special positive morning message and then engage in a "greeting" activity that helps to improve their social skills. This "morning meeting" lasts for 30 minutes each day.

Sometimes our efforts do not pay off and students display negative behaviors toward each other. Our community Teen Center, housed in the high school, works to combat such problems as cyberbullying. The center, under the leadership of Elizabeth Asamoah, will be providing a special event about cyberbullying tomorrow evening at 7:00 PM in the high school auditorium.

There is much more to share with you about promoting a culture of respect in our school district, and I promise to relay other specific programs we're implementing in our schools.

Have a good evening. My next message will come to you on October 21.