



A.D. Oliver Middle School

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Bcs1.org

November 2021

Principal Jerrod D. Roberts
Assistant Principal Rebecca Tibbitts
Assistant Principal Michelle Guerrieri

Dear Parent/Guardians:

A.D. Oliver Middle School is participating in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) as part of a countywide and district effort to gather information about the health risk behaviors of students in grades 6-12. Questions will be asked about personal safety, nutrition, alcohol and other drug use, physical exercise, mental health, and community involvement. We as a district have made modifications to the survey questions based on the developmental level of our students.

The survey has been done in Monroe County schools every two years since 1992. Information from the survey has assisted school, health, and community organizations to plan services for youth based on local needs. Completing the survey poses no risk to your child. The survey is conducted in a manner to assure your child's privacy. Participation is voluntary and anonymous. Your support of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is an important contribution to assuring the health of our youth. The survey will be administered during the week of November 29, 2021.

If you do not want your child to participate in the survey, please complete the form on the bottom of this page and return it to the main office at Oliver Middle School by Friday November 19th. A copy of the survey will be available in the OMS Main Office for your review. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact me at the number below.

Sincerely,

Jerrod D. Roberts
Principal

I request that my child *not participate* in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey on _____. Please return to the OMS Main Office by Friday November 19.

Student's name _____ Grade _____

Parent's signature _____

Vision: We aspire to be a leading, innovative, high-performing school district that graduates each student prepared for college and/or a career.

MONROE COUNTY YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (MC-YRBS)
Parent and Student Information

Q: What does the MC-YRBS ask?

A: The MC-YRBS focuses on health-related behaviors that result in the most deaths, health and social problems during both adolescences and adulthood. These include: 1) behaviors that result in injuries (including car crashes and violence); 2) substance use, including tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol and other drugs; 3) sexual behaviors that may result in infections and unintended pregnancies; and 4) physical activity. In addition, there are questions about mental health, adverse childhood experiences and assets. Mental health and trauma can have a significant impact on school performance and health risk behaviors. Assets have the power to protect youth from engaging in risk behaviors.

Q: Why is the survey being done?

A: The results of the survey are used by the Monroe County Department of Public Health and school districts to measure health issues among youth and utilize the results to develop programs to help reduce risks and promote health enhancing behaviors.

Q: Doesn't a survey like this actually encourage students to engage in these behaviors?

A: The factors that impact whether or not a student engages in health risk behaviors are complex. Youth are frequently exposed to messages about tobacco, alcohol, other drug use, violence, and sexuality through the media, parents, friends, and the broader community. Exposure to a small number of questions on any one topic is not likely to cause a change in behavior – either good or bad. If it were that easy, we could simply ask students about all the things we want them to do! The results of the survey can also be used to educate the students that most youth are not engaging in these behaviors. For example, according to the results from the 2017 MC YRBS, 73% of youth did not drink alcohol in the past month.

Q: Will student participation be anonymous?

A: Yes. Survey administration procedures have been designed to protect student privacy and allow for anonymous participation. Students will not put their names or other identifying information on the questionnaires.

Q: Does my child have to participate?

A: No. Participation in this survey is voluntary and your child's grade in this class will not be affected, whether or not they answer the questions. Students also have the option of leaving a question blank that they are not comfortable answering.

Q: Do students answer the question truthfully?

A: Research indicates data of this nature may be gathered as reliably from adolescents as from adults. To obtain truthful answers, students must perceive the survey as important and know that procedures have been developed to protect their privacy and allow for anonymous participation.

Q: Can I review a copy of the survey?

A: Yes, a copy of the survey will be kept at [Enter Location]