



Anthony Tumolo, Supervisor of SEL and Special Projects

[atumolo@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:atumolo@readington.k12.nj.us)

P.O. Box 807 • 52 Readington Road • Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889 • (908) 534-2195 ext. 2960 • (908) 349-3032 fax

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

This year we are excited to announce that we will be piloting two new curricula called **Aevidum (Grades 6-8) and Little Aevidum (Grades K-5)**. The Aevidum curricula support our SEL commitment outlined in our district's strategic plan, specifically centered around best mental health practices and the cultivation of a caring, supportive school culture. These short lessons will be taught during health class by the Physical Education teacher supported by your child's grade level School Counselor. This year the Aevidum curricula will be taught to students in grades 2, 5 and 8. The lessons and activities support the current health standards and have been purposefully integrated into the health scope and sequence. Furthermore, a club has been created at RMS to support the work being done in the classroom that will provide students the opportunity to take on a leadership role as an Aevidum Student Ambassador. Here is a brief, but detailed description of the program written by Francesca Pileggi, Executive Director of Aevidum.

*"Aevidum isn't just any ordinary word. It's a movement that was created by a teen who, after losing her friend to suicide, wanted to inspire others to be there for their friends. She wanted to inspire her peers to have each other's backs. So, they spread the word around their school... then around their community... then..."*

*Take a moment to think about Aevidum's "I've got your back" message." What does it mean to have someone's back? What does it mean to be a friend, an advocate? Aevidum is about creating a culture of kindness that permeates the classroom and hallways of a school. Aevidum is about empowerment and hope and fun. Its philosophy is present in the caring adults and inspired students who call the school home.*

*People often ask, "What is Aevidum?" Aevidum is empowerment. Aevidum is awareness. Aevidum is hope. Aevidum is being there when no one else is. Aevidum is being there when everyone is. Aevidum is youth. Aevidum is a good friend, a trusted advisor, a wise mentor. Aevidum is an educator or an adult or a friend who cares and inspires above and beyond what's in his or her job description. Aevidum is an administrator with vision, a coach whose passion remains long after the season ends, a secretary or a cafeteria worker whose caring voice is a constant reminder that your school is something special and that your students are truly surrounded by people who care. Aevidum is creating a culture of kindness. It's a song a student writes about friendship, a PSA student film about advocacy, a poster that highlights the talents of students in your school. It's a sculpture. It's a painting. It's a short story. It's a poem, a photo, an online campaign. It's encouraging your principal to say it, empowering your students to live it, and inspiring someone famous to spread it. It's how the football team ends a huddle. It's a series of yellow hands that grace a hallway, each hand representing a student in that class. It's anything that promotes our "I've got your back" message. Aevidum is simple. Aevidum is powerful and real."*

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me. I will be happy to discuss this further if needed. Thank you and I wish you well.

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