



News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

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\$15,000 Donated to Metro School Counseling Program

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (May 27, 2009) – The MNPS School Counseling Program is getting a major boost from two local businesses. AmeriChoice and Regions Bank recently donated \$10,000 and \$5,000 (respectively) to help fund the Safe@Last program by providing various program materials.

“Teaching our children how to protect themselves is one of the best tools we can give them,” said Dr. Kellie M. Hargis, Executive Director of School Counseling Services. “We sincerely appreciate the support shown by AmeriChoice and Regions. With their partnership, wonderful programs like Safe@Last will continue to thrive and assist in the overall education and safety of our children.”

Safe@Last, a program coordinated by the Nashville-based Sexual Assault Center, is designed to teach students how to protect themselves from physical and emotional harm. The program provides students grades K-6 the tools they need to avoid dangerous situations. Safe@Last teaches students about personal boundaries and helps them develop assertiveness skills.

MNPS first introduced the Safe@Last program in 1998 with a pilot project and by 2000 it had expanded to include grades K-6 district-wide. Safe@Last program materials are in every elementary school and nearly all middle schools that serve students in grades K-6. In an effort to expand this program, the MNPS counseling department has been working to establish partnerships with community organizations and businesses. Regions and AmeriChoice graciously stepped up to the plate, providing funding for 24 middle schools’ 5th grade classes; 52 elementary schools’ 3rd and 4th grade classes; and one elementary school’s 5th grade classes. The goal is for every child who attends an elementary or middle school in the district to go through this program.

About MNPS Counseling Department

MNPS has 230 school counselors, serving students grades K-12. The district has at least one counselor in every school in the district. School counselors provide services to all children, with the focus primarily on academic, personal, social and career development. The inclusion of professional school counselors in all schools reflects the district and community's commitment to the quality education of the whole child. Through collaborative efforts such as the one mentioned above, MNPS counselors are helping to promote creative policies and implement effective programs that engage, support, and challenge students more than ever.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

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