

## Shrewsbury Borough School

---

---

Brent MacConnell  
Superintendent  
20 Obre Place  
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Telephone: (732) 747-0882  
Fax: (732) 747-7510

March 9, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the week of October 18-22<sup>nd</sup>, Shrewsbury Borough School celebrated the theme “**I Believe in Me to be Drug and Bully Free.**” With the help of the Shrewsbury Community Alliance, the week’s activities combined a celebration of both Red Ribbon Week (substance abuse prevention education) and Bully Prevention Awareness Week. Shrewsbury Borough School recognizes the present social/technological climate facing our students. We are all aware that instances of bullying and substance abuse occur nationwide and in our community. Within the next several weeks we would like to survey parts of our student body about how they feel about these issues.

**Shrewsbury Borough School Bullying Survey (Grades 5-8); link:**

<http://www.sbs.k12.nj.us/sbs/Backpack%20Notices/Bullying%20Survey>

**Shrewsbury Borough School Substance Abuse Survey (Grades 5-8) link:**

<http://www.sbs.k12.nj.us/sbs/Backpack%20Notices/Substance%20Abuse%20Survey>

### **What is the purpose/intent of the survey(s)?**

Students educated in all school districts today face a wide range of academic and non-academic issues on a daily basis. In light of the negative outcomes that peer victimization (physical, verbal and relational) and alcohol and other drug use can have on our students’ development, it is pertinent that educators and parents remain aware and alert to these issues. At SBS we want to do all that we can to reduce peer victimization and future alcohol and other drug use amongst our student body. To create or improve existing programs, have the ability to provide assistance to those in need, and to prevent problem behaviors from occurring, we need to identify what issues are facing our students.

### **Will my child’s answers be confidential?**

Yes, absolutely. The survey your child will be asked to fill out will be completely anonymous. Their name will not appear on any form so this means that their responses will never be linked to him or her. Your child may decide to skip answering certain questions. That is their prerogative. All information on the data received from the surveys will be reported on a per grade/full school level. The more your child knows that his identity is protected the more honest his/her answers will be. Under no circumstances does either of the surveys ask for any names or specific situations.

### **Is it mandatory that my student participate in the survey(s)?**

To achieve an accurate representation of the student body we are hoping for 100% participation in this survey process, however, please note that your child’s participation is completely optional. Non participation will not affect your student’s standing in his or her class.

**How will the survey(s) be conducted?**

SBS School Policy and NJ state law requires an active consent (written permission) from a parent/guardian before their child could participate in any school survey. Please read over the survey questions contained in the website links noted above and make your choice to participate. **A permission slip is attached to this letter and must be returned to the student's homeroom teacher regardless of whether or not you have chosen for your child to participate.** The return of this paper is the student's responsibility to hand into their **homeroom teacher** by **Wednesday, March 16**.

Once the permission slips are returned the survey process can begin. Surveys will be given during an extended homeroom period. Those students not participating in the survey will be given an alternate activity. Members of the Shrewsbury Drug and Alcohol Alliance along with our school counselor, Miss Shaheen, will be on hand to answer any questions during the process. We recommend, however, that you review the surveys with your student (via the website link) beforehand to make sure they understand the questions they will be asked. Their answers will not be tied to them in any way.

Once all the surveys are completed, the Guidance Department with assistance from the Alliance will tabulate the results.

The more surveys that we collect the better the insight we will have of the issues facing our student body so we encourage you to consider participating in this activity. Studies have found that many students act in ways they believe are consistent with what is expected of them in certain situations. Thus a student's perception of this expectation may influence their actual behavior in those situations. The misperception (between actual and perceived behavior) has been found to lead to increased poor decision making. Students may come to believe that their actions are acceptable because they follow what they perceive to be what everyone else is doing. We hope that the results of the above surveys will enable students to challenge their perceptions about the norms of the student body.

***Please remember: All permission slips should be returned by Wednesday, March 16, 2011 regardless of whether you are agreeing for your student to take the survey.***

Thank you for your assistance in our goal to a better understanding of the issues facing our student body. We strive to do all that we can to make sure the students of Shrewsbury Borough School will continue to learn, live and grow in a healthy and safe environment.

Sincerely,

*Brent MacConnell*

Brent MacConnell  
Superintendent

**Shrewsbury Borough School Survey Permission Slip**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give permission for my child to take the **Bullying and Substance Abuse Survey**

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not give permission for my child to take the **Bullying and Substance Abuse Survey**