



PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

We educate all children to reach their greatest potential.

THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence
1403 North Holden Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

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Michael R. Weber, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

100 West Monroe Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

Website: www.pwssd.k12.wi.us

February 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Port Washington-Saukville School District's mission is to "*Educate all children to reach their greatest potential.*" To support this mission, students are regularly screened academically and physically (i.e., vision and hearing) via a multi-tiered system of support. Beginning in March 2018, students in Kindergarten through 6th grade will also be screened using the Devereux Student Strengths Assessments (DESSA).

The goal of the DESSA screeners is for teachers to identify students' social and emotional skills, which are essential to academic achievement. Social skills include making and keeping friends, showing respect for others, and resolving disagreements in positive ways. Emotional skills include being able to recognize one's own feelings and others' emotions and showing self-control.

The DESSA screeners are brief, strength-based rating scales measuring the social and emotional skills that help students do well in school, at home, and in the community. Your student's teacher will complete the strength-based assessments based on direct observations of the student's daily interactions at school. This information will be used to better plan for all students, focusing on their individual strengths. Consistent with practices for analyzing academic data, the results from the screenings will be used by school staff to best meet the needs of all students. Parents/guardians will be notified if the results indicate that a student may be in need of additional instruction in one or more social/emotional areas.

The Port Washington-Saukville School District strives to provide a safe and positive environment for all students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, school psychologist, and/or building principal at 262-268-6100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sukawaty".

Steve Sukawaty, Principal
Thomas Jefferson Middle School
Port Washington, WI
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