

**Wellness Team**  
**4727 San Pablo Ave.**  
**Emeryville, CA 94608**  
**(510) 601-4910 Fax (510) 601-4913**

March 12, 2009

Dear Emery Families,

I am excited to announce that on May 27<sup>th</sup> and May 28, 2009, Emery USD will be conducting the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). Students in the fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh grades will be participating. The survey will be administered during one class period, and will most likely take one hour to complete. This survey will ask questions of students related to school climate, health, and wellness. This survey will help us to assess our success in meeting the goals of our guiding principles, and will also inform health and prevention programs that can enhance our school environment.

Information collected through this survey has shown that school climate factors and student connectedness are related to changes in academic performance and test scores over time. This analysis supports the importance of promoting a positive school climate — and of reducing involvement in risk behaviors — as part of any comprehensive school improvement effort.

The CHKS is rooted in the recognition that improvements in academic achievement and learning cannot occur without addressing the health and behavioral risks that confront our youth and establishing environments that support learning and positive youth development. The first step in achieving this goal is obtaining data to guide program development and decision-making. The survey provides data on fundamental learning supports and barriers, and collects additional information to guide these efforts. Local benefits include:

- Assessing, understanding, and responding to youth health risks and their influences;
- Laying the foundation for student success;
- Complying with categorical program requirements, and obtaining new funding;
- Identifying prevention and health program goals;
- Evaluating program success in meeting goals;
- Fostering a comprehensive health program;
- Fostering parent-community awareness and collaboration; and
- Assessing assets/resilience and promoting positive youth development.

The results of the climate survey will assist us in ongoing improvements of programs that support positive character development among all students. The survey includes questions that assess:

- The current climate of the school and its community with regards to youth development;
- The scope of prevention efforts and health services, including school-community collaboration and availability of resources.
- Degree of potential substance use and abuse and other risk-taking behavior and how it may impact both learning and the school in general;
- The nature, communication, and effectiveness of school policies and procedures

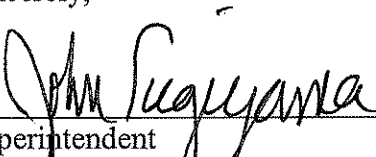
To view the complete survey yourself, you can visit:

[http://www.wested.org/cs/chks/view/chks\\_s/17?x-layout=surveys](http://www.wested.org/cs/chks/view/chks_s/17?x-layout=surveys) online or you can go to the district office, where a hard copy of surveys will be available for you to view in the CHKS binder.

To preserve anonymity, results will be presented in tables that combine answers from all staff in all grades according to the district school configuration (i.e., by elementary, middle school, high school) and by individual school.

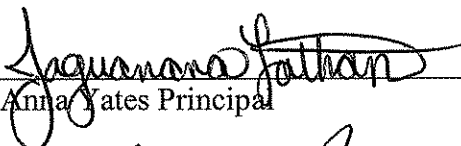
We thank you and your students for your cooperation in helping us to make Emery USD a stronger learning environment. Any questions you may have can be directed to Lauren La Plante, who can be reached at 510-601-4749.

Sincerely,

  
Superintendent


  
Deputy Superintendent

  
Emery Secondary Principal

  
Anna Yates Principal

  
Wellness Director

  
Student Services Director

  
School Psychologist

  
Public Information Officer

**CALIFORNIA HEALTHY KIDS SURVEY NOTIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL FORM  
2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child is being asked to be a part of our school's Healthy Kids Survey sponsored by the California Department of Education. This is a very important survey that will help promote better health among our youth and combat problems such as drug abuse and violence. Please read this form for information about the survey, and for instructions on how to withdraw your child. *If you do not want your child to complete the survey, you must notify your school.*

**Survey Content.** The survey gathers information on behaviors such as physical activity and nutritional habits; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; school safety; and environmental and individual strengths and assets. It also includes questions regarding considering, planning, or attempting to commit suicide, sexual behavior and practices leading to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy. You may examine the questionnaire in the district office or at your district's website [www.emeryusd.org](http://www.emeryusd.org).

**It is Voluntary.** Your child does not have to take the survey. Students who participate only have to answer the questions they want to answer and they may stop taking it at any time.

**It is Anonymous.** No names will be recorded or attached to the survey forms or data. The results will be made available for analysis only under strict confidentiality controls.

**Administration.** The survey will be administered on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. It will take about one class period to complete (about 60 minutes) and will be administered in your child's English class.

**Potential Risks.** There are no known risks of physical harm to your child. Risks of psychological or social harm are very small. None have been reported in seven years of survey administration. In rare instances, some discomfort might be experienced from the questions. The school's counseling services will be available to answer any personal questions that may materialize.

**For Further Information.** The survey was developed by WestEd, a public, non-profit educational institution. If you have any questions about this survey, or about your rights, call Lauren La Plante at 510-601-4749.

**If you do not want your child to participate, you may contact:**

Lauren La Plante, Wellness Team, Emery Unified School District  
[Lauren.laplante@emeryusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Lauren.laplante@emeryusd.k12.ca.us)

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**CHKS Withdrawal Form –**

**Only complete this form if you DO NOT want your child to participate in the survey.**

By returning this form, I *do not give permission* for my child to be in the Healthy Kids Survey.

(Please Print) My child's name is: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's name or Class subject: \_\_\_\_\_

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