



## Wilbraham Middle School

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September 30, 2008

Dear Parent(s),

Recently, we held our annual assemblies for both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with the School Resource Officer from MRHS, Dan Menard; D.A.R.E. Officer, Jeff Radinski; K-9 Officer, Joe Brewer; and Officer Ben, the Wilbraham Police Department's Search & Rescue Dog. We hold these assemblies each year to inform students about their responsibilities in our school and community when it involves everyone's safety and well being.

At these assemblies, we discuss topics such as: assault and battery (touching someone without their permission), personal space, harassment, sexual harassment, texting, internet use, phone calls, drugs, and alcohol. These assemblies are designed to be both informative and encourage students to report safety concerns.

As a result of the joint efforts of the Wilbraham Police Department and our school, we were approached by several students who had concerns about some of their classmates and their classmates' unsafe activities specifically involving marijuana. We immediately began a thorough investigation.

Following state guidelines, the advice of our legal counsel and the Wilbraham Police Department, we have taken the appropriate steps towards ensuring the safety of our school. This is a clear example of how effectively our D.A.R.E. Officer and School Resource Officer work with school leadership to provide a safe environment that is conducive to learning.

I am very pleased that our students feel comfortable enough to report when they believe their peers are engaging in unsafe activities. Fortunately these recent concerns were brought to us early enough to take appropriate action. I encourage you to take this opportunity to talk to your children about our recent assemblies and the importance of making good choices. Rest assured the Wilbraham Police Department and district leadership will continue to work together toward the safety of our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hale  
Principal