



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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For Suicide Prevention Week 2018, learn what PCSD is doing to help students who need emotional assistance:

New Prevention/Intervention Office Helps PCSD Reach At-Risk Students

For the 2018-2019 school year, the Paulding County School District has created a new district support role specifically aimed toward preventing at-risk behaviors among students, and intervening to assist students who are struggling with a wide range of social emotional problems. The appropriately named **Prevention/Intervention Office** is represented by coordinator Mary C. Wade. Before joining the Paulding County School District, Ms. Wade served the Cobb County School District in a similar role as a prevention specialist. The Cobb County program has had great success helping a significant number of students.

“The goal of Prevention/Intervention is to enhance social emotional learning for students,” said Ms. Wade. “Our focus is on building relationships so students can get the help they need.”

Prevention/Intervention aims to support students, their families, and even district staff when needed. Some of the key areas of focus are bullying prevention, suicide prevention, drug & alcohol prevention, and crisis intervention. Ms. Wade is certified in crisis response and suicide prevention training and in her short time at PCSD has already helped a number of students struggling with social pressures.

“Students face a lot more pressure today because of social media,” she said. “Everyone knows instantly what other students are doing, who they are talking about, and the status pressure to be accepted is very intense. Students also feel more academic pressure with the requirements for AP and Honors classes, and the increasing demands for college admittance. All of this has led to rising depression and anxiety in our youth.”

Ms. Wade said that to the extent that funding is available, Prevention/Intervention will rely on several proven evidence-based programs, such as the peer-leader suicide prevention program Sources of Strength, to teach students and lead them away from suicidal inclinations. At the lower grades, the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is an option to help involve parents and the community in supporting students to prevent bullying and other negative behaviors.

“Implementing these programs can provide the intervention needed so that students in the early stages of depression and other negative behaviors are prevented from becoming more serious cases,” she said.

Ms. Wade will work closely with school counselors and other staff in Paulding schools, all committed to providing support for students’ emotional needs.

“We all can benefit from being educated in these issues,” she said. “Reaching out to students today may help prevent more serious problems tomorrow.”

PREVENTION / INTERVENTION

- Bullying prevention
- Suicide prevention
- Drug & alcohol prevention
- Crisis intervention (mental health, incidents at school, etc.)



Mary Wade, M.ED, LPC

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- Board certified in Crisis Response
- Certified trainer for QPR Suicide Prevention Program
- Sources of Strength Suicide Prevention Trainer & Coordinator
- Restorative Practices Trainer

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