



**Waunakee Community School District**

Committed to Children . Committed to Community . Committed to Excellence

**WAUNAKEE COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 1001 South Street, Waunakee, WI 53597**  
**(608)849-2060 phone; (608)849-2088 fax**  
<http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/middle/>

Marcy Peters-Felice  
Principal

Mike Zibell  
Associate Principal

January 20, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that Dane County school districts will be administering the Dane County Youth Assessment in January and February 2012.

Since 1980, every few years over 23,000 Dane County youth in grades 7-12 are surveyed regarding their opinions, concerns, attitudes, behaviors and experiences to provide educators, community agencies, parents, policy-makers and funding bodies the data needed to inform grant writing, program development and public policy.

The last survey was administered in 2009 and informed the following efforts:

- CESA 2 and district ATODA counselors invited a nationally known speaker and athletic code designer to an open forum to discuss policies and practices to reduce substance use among student athletes;
- Public Health Madison and Dane County used the data to assess health risks related to obesity, diet, physical activity and tobacco use targeting its interventions with local partners. One initiative focused on reducing youth access and use of tobacco through a partnership with Tobacco Free Dane County Coalition;
- Dane county launched the Coalition to Reduce Alcohol Abuse, an initiative that included legislative and environmental activities to reduce youth access to alcohol;
- United Way of Dane County continued its Achievement Connections initiative with partner school districts to improve high school achievement and graduation rates;
- The Madison Metropolitan School District used the data to select bullying prevention materials and to conduct parent forums on preventing underage drinking;
- School districts throughout the county used the data in classroom discussions and at town hall meetings to address underage drinking and many other target issues.

The 2009 report and results are available at

[http://www.danecountyhumanservices.org/Family/Youth/youth\\_assessment\\_2009.aspx](http://www.danecountyhumanservices.org/Family/Youth/youth_assessment_2009.aspx)

A committee of school personnel, parents and representatives of the Dane County Youth Commission, United Way, the City of Madison and Public Health Madison & Dane County developed the 2012 survey. The survey collects information on the issues, challenges and factors impacting youth every day. Specific topics include:

- Demographics and living situation
- How youth spend their time
- Parents and families
- Health, nutrition and safety behavior
- Emotional and mental health
- Sexual activity
- Drug and alcohol use
- School experience
- Peer relations & bullying
- Social networking (a new topic area in this survey)
- Community relations and support

Functions are built into the survey allowing students who are not sexually active or alcohol/drug involved to skip these sections of the survey.

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and district policy, please be advised that:

- The survey will be conducted in Waunakee Middle School during the first week in February, 2012.
- No student names will be collected. The survey is completely anonymous and confidential.
- School personnel will oversee survey administration.
- The survey will be administered electronically. No one in the school or district will see any individual student responses.
- Survey results will be tabulated by project vendor K12 Associates.
- Parents may inspect the survey in a hard copy form at the office of Craig Wille, School Psychologist located at Waunakee Middle School, 1001 South Street, Waunakee, Wisconsin 53597. Craig Wille can be contacted at [cwille@waunakee.k12.wi.us](mailto:cwille@waunakee.k12.wi.us), and 608-849-2090.
- Participation is voluntary. The participation of every student is greatly appreciated. However, if you prefer that your son or daughter not participate; please complete and return the form at the bottom of this page, or contact Craig Wille by phone or e-mail.
- If you have questions about the survey, please contact the school representative listed above, Connie Bettin, Dane County Prevention Manager at [bettin@countyofdane.com](mailto:bettin@countyofdane.com) or 242-6422, or Deborah Hobbins, chair of the Dane County Youth Commission at 608-235-9006.

Sincerely,

*Craig Wille*  
*School Psychologist*

**(Please return if you Do Not want your child to participate in the 2012 Dane County Youth Survey)**

I do not want my son/daughter (name) \_\_\_\_\_ who attends \_\_\_\_\_ school to participate in the Dane County Youth Assessment.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer that you son or daughter does not take this survey, Please Return by January 31, 2012 to: Craig Wille; Waunakee Middle School, 1001 South Street, Waunakee, Wisconsin 53597. E-mail: cwille@waunakee.k12.wi.us