

Dear Parents and/or Caregivers,

For many years, Safe Harbor has grappled with the question, how do we prevent domestic violence from happening in our community? If you haven't heard the recent rankings, SC ranks #1 in the nation for the number of women murdered by men, a significant predictor for domestic violence rates. In addition, Greenville County has also ranked #1 in the number of domestic violence calls to law enforcement in previous years.

In response to these sobering numbers, Safe Harbor has developed the Relationship Education Project (REP) curriculum to reach out to middle and high school students to educate them about the issue of domestic violence in hopes to empower and educate the future generation to stop domestic violence before it starts in their lives.

REP is an engaging curriculum built upon national resources and perfected for our local audience. It is a 5-session class that covers the following topics:

- Healthy relationships
- Conflict resolution
- Healthy communication
- Self-respect
- Developing personal boundaries
- Unhealthy relationships
- Teen dating violence definition and types (physical, emotional, sexual, technology abuse)
- Safety planning (leaving/breaking off an unhealthy or abusive relationship)
- The interpersonal and cultural influences of violence (past exposure, media, gender stereotypes)

Sevier Middle School will be offering 8th grade students this curriculum from November - December through their PE classes.

We encourage you to continue discussion with your child at home. Some questions you might ask are:

- What have you been learning in the Safe Harbor/REP class at school?
- Can you give me an example of dating violence other than physical abuse?
- Do you see unhealthy relationship behaviors among your friends?
- What should you do if you find yourself or a friend in an unhealthy or abusive relationship?

If you have any questions about the REP curriculum, you can reach out to Amanda Callahan, Prevention Coordinator (contact information below) or check out the REP website at [www.repsc.org](http://www.repsc.org). Lastly, if you are experiencing domestic violence in your life, Safe Harbor is here to help with free, confidential resources. Please call us at 1-800-291-2139.

Sincerely,



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