

## Lakeview Elementary School

Ryan Stowell Principal

Ron DeJulio K-7 Assistant Principal 640 Wakefield Drive · Cortland, Ohio, 44410 Phone: (330) 638-2145 · Fax (330) 638-6727 · www.lakeviewlocal.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, Ohio law requires schools to provide annual *developmentally* appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention to students in grades K through 6. This instruction will take place in the coming months and Lakeview Elementary will be utilizing *Fight Child Abuse*, which is an Ohio Department of Education approved curriculum that fulfills the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.60.

Upon written request, parents and legal guardians may request to examine instructional materials and/or excuse their child from child sexual abuse prevention instruction. You can also preview the materials online:

Grades K-3 Videos: <a href="https://fightchildabuse.org/k-3-video/">https://fightchildabuse.org/k-3-video/</a>

Grades K-3 Plans: <a href="https://fightchildabuse.org/k-3-activities/#student-sheets">https://fightchildabuse.org/k-3-activities/#student-sheets</a>

Grade 4 Videos: <a href="https://fightchildabuse.org/4-6-video/">https://fightchildabuse.org/4-6-video/</a>
Grade 4 Plans: <a href="https://fightchildabuse.org/4-6-activities/">https://fightchildabuse.org/4-6-activities/</a>

Unfortunately, child sexual abuse is more prevalent than many people realize and often perpetrated by a person that the victim is familiar with, as outlined in the statistics below:

- Current research suggests that approximately 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 20 boys report experiencing childhood sexual abuse before the age of 18.
- The highest percentage of sexual abuse victims are under the age of 9.
- "Stranger danger" is a myth: in 90 percent of cases, sexually abused children know the person abusing them.

Educate yourself and your child about sexual abuse prevention, and keep the lines of communication open. It's a great first step to preventing sexual abuse. The website <a href="www.EarlyOpenOften.org">www.EarlyOpenOften.org</a> is a resource that may be helpful for families preparing to have these conversations at home.

We understand this is a sensitive topic, but with a developmentally appropriate approach and delivery, we hope to bring awareness to our students and educate them on how to react should they ever find themselves in an unsafe situation.

Once again, this instruction in child sexual abuse prevention is required to be part of the district's curriculum by the State of Ohio. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns!

Sincerely,

Brittney Abbott
K-4 School Counselor
brittney.abbott@lakeviewlocal.org

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