



October 4, 2021

Dear MCS Families,

Madison Consolidated Schools are blessed with a strong community. The collective values and efforts of the students, parents, coaches, teachers, and staff combine to make for what is an intense, but positive, educational experience. While grateful for the current state of our School environment, the School nevertheless continues to seek better understanding regarding the well-being of its students. I am writing to ask for your assistance in this by granting permission for your child to participate in a survey that should give the School helpful information. The survey questions cover areas such as personal values, empathy and kindness, depression and anxiety, substance use, and relationships with family and friends. The goal of the study is to better understand the preoccupations and concerns of children growing up in our community and, accordingly, to learn how best to continue promoting positive development among our students.

The survey is an extension of Dr. Suniya Luthar's efforts to study and promote positive youth development. Dr. Luthar is currently the Chief Research Officer of [Authentic Connections](#) and Professor Emerita at Columbia University's Teachers College, where she had previously served as professor. Dr. Luthar has also previously been on the faculty at Yale University's School of Medicine.

The questionnaires that Dr. Luthar has used in her research were developed from several standard measures that ask youth questions about their feelings and behaviors. Honest responses from students are essential in this endeavor. There are therefore important criteria in place to ensure honest responses and protect our students' privacy. As in Dr. Luthar's past research, **all of the information submitted will remain completely anonymous**. No identifying information – including IP addresses – will be collected. Your child's name will **not** appear anywhere on his or her responses, and questionnaires are all stored according to random ID numbers, specially allotted for this survey. When analyzed, survey data will be presented to School administrators only in terms of trends (by grade, gender, ...), and responses cannot be linked to an individual respondent.

Students will take the survey online during the school day October 14th or 15th. However, your child **does not have to participate**. If you **do not** want your child to participate, please fill out the enclosed sheet and return it to your child's School office by Tuesday, October 12th. Also, please know that if your child begins a survey but decides during the survey that they wish to withdraw from the project, they may do so at any time. Thank you very much for your support in this endeavor, and for all you do to keep the Madison Consolidated School community healthy.

Sincerely,

Shelli Reetz, MS; EdS

Director of Student Services



CONSENT DENIED FOR

RESEARCH SURVEY WITH Madison Consolidated Schools

Please fill in this form and return it to the office by Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

I do **not** wish for my child to participate in this project.

Student's Name: _____
(please print)

Parent Signature: _____

Please return by Tuesday, October 12, 2021

THANK YOU