

GENERAL BROWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

General Brown Junior-Senior High School

17643 Cemetery Road
Dexter, NY 13634
Tel 315-779-2300 / Fax 639-3444

Brownville/Glen Park Elementary School

PO Box 10
Brownville, NY 13615
Tel 315-779-2300 / Fax 788-6976

Dexter Elementary School

415 East Grove Street
Dexter, NY 13634
Tel 315-779-2300 / Fax 639-6845



BARBARA J. CASE Superintendent of Schools

PO Box 500
Dexter, NY 13634
Telephone: 315-779-2300 / Fax 315-639-6916

Board of Education

Jeffrey West, President
Daniel Dupee II, Vice President
Sandra Young Klindt
Jamie Lee
Brien Spooner
Albert J. Romano, Jr.
Natalie Hurley

www.gblions.org

March 16, 2018

Dear Parents & Guardians:

This message comes to you in hopes that the General Brown Central School District can create some sort of reassurance for you that the Leadership Team is making safety our top priority. We have been sharing conversation and studying our Safety Plan and procedures to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and visitors that are in the General Brown school buildings daily. Honestly, now more than ever, it's important that we work together to be vigilant in following steps that could prevent any type of school violence. As you may have noticed, our buildings are undergoing construction measures to enhance our safety. We will continue to work with law enforcement. We will be planning professional development opportunities for our staff, so that we do not become complacent. We are listening to students as they bring individual concerns forward, and we have recently planned opportunities for round-table discussions with students at the Junior Senior High School to gather their ideas to improve our school environments. There is no one approach that will work. Instead, we must embrace all of these measures, along with supporting the idea of strengthening our sense of community and connectedness to each child, not only in school, but the greater General Brown community.

We need your help. We know the importance of focusing on students' social and emotional learning and well-being, and in order to support all children, they need to feel that someone cares. Please encourage your children to talk with you about their feelings. Please challenge your children to reach out to a classmate that seems isolated or alone. Through empathy and understanding, we can become a stronger community that celebrates the gifts that all contribute in making General Brown great. These caring steps may help children feel more connected; thereby, making us all safer.

A TRADITION IN FINE EDUCATION

Equal Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer

***For more information about our District, please visit our website: www.gblions.org
and subscribe to receive E--Alert Updates.***

Along with open, face-to-face communication, we encourage you to monitor your child's use of social media. If something seems suspicious to your child, ask to see it. We have found that social media can cause a sense of chaos and panic that seems to repeat itself, even after we have investigated claims brought forward by parents and children. We do take every claim seriously, and we include law enforcement in the process. However, we have found that we are retracing our steps because students are repeating generalizations and comments made by peers as fact, rather than simply asking for clarification in what they heard or saw on social media. We need them to bring forward their concerns, but along with that, we are attempting to teach our students to recognize derogatory statements that are hurtful and could further isolate fellow classmates. It's a challenging world that our children must learn to navigate. Together, we can support the whole child, so that we can best meet the needs of General Brown students and our General Brown Community.

If you have specific safety concerns, I encourage you to speak with your child's building principal. We certainly can't share specific information that could compromise our safety procedures or information about specific students, but we can assure you that we are being vigilant in ensuring the safety of all students, staff, and visitors to General Brown Central School District. Please feel free to email me at bcase@gblions.org or call (315) 779-2300 to further discuss our efforts to support the students of the District. Thank you for all you do to be a caring adult to all children at General Brown.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Case
Superintendent of Schools

A TRADITION IN FINE EDUCATION

Equal Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer

**For more information about our District, please visit our website: www.gblions.org
and subscribe to receive E--Alert Updates.**