

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This spring our school in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Education is conducting a school climate survey of students, parents and guardians, and teachers and other professional staff. The purpose of this survey is to measure vital dimensions of each school's climate including the engagement of students, parents, and teachers; safety conditions; academic expectations; school discipline, and the school's physical environment. This survey enables schools to assess their progress in establishing a positive school climate that promotes student learning.

I am writing to provide you with information on both the parent/guardian and student surveys. Both surveys will be completed online. The surveys do not ask for either your name or your child's name and all answers are anonymous (no one will know how you or your child answered the survey). The school will not receive a copy of any individual's answers to the survey. There is a copy of both surveys available at school for your review.

- *Student Survey:* Only students in grades 4 through 12 will be asked to participate. All eligible students in these grades will be asked to participate in the school climate survey. Students will complete the survey online using computers at school. Parents will not have access to their child's survey answers.

The survey will ask questions such as how students feel about school rules, their perceptions of their teachers' willingness to help them, and how they feel about attending school. They will also be asked what kinds of teasing and bullying they may have observed at school and whether they have been bullied themselves. There are different surveys for younger students (grades 4-5) and older students (grades 6-12).

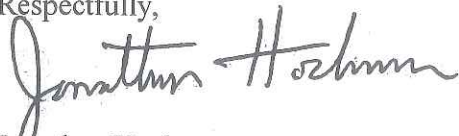
The survey is voluntary and your child can decide not to participate. If you do **not** wish for your child to participate, please notify the school office by telephone or letter by Monday, April 17.

- *Parent/Guardian Survey:* Each family is asked to complete one survey. If you have more than one child attending this school, you only need to complete one survey. You may take the survey on any internet-connected device (e.g. computer, cell phone, tablet, etc.) by going to the following website parents.vaschoolclimate.info and entering this **password: ITS189P**. The survey is ready to be completed now, and I encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. If you do not have access to an internet-connect device (e.g. computer, cell phone, tablet, etc.), there will be one located at the school, which you can use to complete the survey.

Neither you nor your child will receive any immediate benefit from participating in the survey, but the survey will help us to design a safe, inviting, and supportive learning environment for your child. We respect your decision not to participate and want to assure you that no action will be taken against the school, you, or your child for not participating.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important study of school climate.

Respectfully,



Jonathan Hochman
Principal
Woodside High School