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Dear HBW Families,

As you know, our mission at HBW this year is to continue creating a positive learning environment where students are academically and socially successful. At HBW we refer to this approach as ***HBW Making WISE Choices***.

Our **HBW Making WISE Choices** initiative continued today with our fourth **OWL Day** of the school year. The entire day was organized into four rotations, with each experience designed to support positive behavior, making wise choices, respect, integrity, and open-mindedness. Today's Owl Day blocks were:

- **Integrity Goals Review & Reflection** - The pillar of **Integrity** was the focus of our work during the third marking period. During this period today, students were provided with the same "Integrity Goals" sheet they created for themselves when we introduced the pillar of Integrity at our Feb. 14 Owl Day. Students then viewed a video from Kid President entitled, "How Good Spreads." You can find a link to the video here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bH5ozEo1Ao4>.

After a discussion, students wrote a reflection of what they have accomplished during the marking period pertaining to Integrity. Integrity goals/reflection sheets went home with students. We encourage you to review and discuss with your child. Students were then provided with an End of Year Goal Sheet. Goals were set as follows:

- **Grade 5:** Our 5th graders were asked to reflect upon their transition from elementary school to middle school. They were challenged to think about the goals they achieved and those they were not quite able to attain. Students were then asked to create academic and social goals for themselves for next school year.
 - **Grades 6&7:** These students were asked to consider some goals they would like to achieve this summer. Goals could be related to academics, friends, home, and other interests and activities. Students were also asked to identify specific strategies they will use to reach their goals.
 - **Grade 8:** Transitioning from middle to high school is a challenge. We asked students to reflect upon their time at HBW and think about what high school will look like for them academically and socially. Students were asked to create goals for themselves for the summer and for their transition to high school that will support the pillars of respect, integrity, and open-mindedness we have discussed throughout the school year.
- **Team Trivia** - Students met in the Cafeteria and were divided into teams for a friendly trivia contest. The goal was for students to interact productively and support one another during this fun activity designed to test their knowledge of a variety of topics.

- **Team Building Block** - Students met in the Gym to engage in a variety of fun team building activities. Students were divided into groups of approximately 15 students and rotated through the following team building activities:
 - Rock/Paper/Scissors - this was a massive version of the classic game!
 - Pictionary - using a double-sided dry erase board, teams attempted to guess what their classmate was drawing
 - Movie Game - each student was provided with a card with the logo or poster from approximately fifteen classic movies. Ranging from 1928 through 2018, students were asked to hold onto their movie card and stand in order representing the chronological order that the movies first hit the theaters. This game proved to be a lot of fun while incorporating great teamwork!
 - Four Square - another massive version of a game typically played by only four students at a time. Once again, teamwork was more important than skill in this game.
- **Teacher Talk Assembly** - We are so excited that this activity was so well-received because it was admittedly a risk. For this period, students met in the auditorium. At the beginning of the period, students were presented with images of HBW teachers from their own middle school days. The middle school image first appeared and after several seconds, a recent photo of that teacher was presented. In many cases, students were shocked at how different their teachers look now compared to how they looked when they were in middle school!

Then, for the majority of the period, different teachers took the microphone and spoke to students about their own memories of middle school. Teachers' stories varied, and not all of the same teachers spoke with all four grades, but teachers' stories included anecdotes about how lonely middle school was at times for them, how they struggled with academic and social pressures, and how difficult things were at times when they were teased or excluded by their peers. Our goal in doing this was to illustrate for our students that even though the world has changed since we adults were in middle school, the essence of the problems middle school students face now is no different. Students were reminded that we adults care about them, we can relate to them, and students therefore should reach out to one of us for help or guidance if they are struggling with anything. A special thanks to the teachers who volunteered to reveal a lot of personal information during this block, as this was particularly emotional for some of them.

We encourage you to discuss today's Owl Day with your children. We have provided you with some detail of the day so you have a baseline of information from which you can launch your conversations. We believe that today was another **HUGE** success in continuing to support **HBW students Making WISE Choices everyday, everywhere, and in all situations.**

Sincerely,

Mr. Galbierczyk and Ms. McNeal