

Elmira City School District



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elmira City School District

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Start with Hello – Kindness Campaign at Broadway Academy / September 24-28

ELMIRA, NY, September 19, 2018 –

During the week of September 24–28th, 2018, Broadway Academy will join hundreds of schools and youth organizations across the United States by participating in Start With Hello Week. The week's intention is to teach students the skills they need to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness, and encourage them to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation.

Start With Hello Week raises awareness about social isolation and educates students and the community on how to prevent it. The Start with Hello program is a youth violence prevention program from the Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit organization.



“This is the perfect opportunity to welcome students back to school and to engage students around sustaining a culture of inclusiveness and connectedness throughout the school year after year,” says Broadway Academy School Counselor, Kimberly Webster.

“Students of Broadway Academy are encouraged to sit with someone who may feel alone, reach out on social media, invite someone to join, give a simple ‘hello’ gesture to someone, or even leave a handwritten note for someone,” Webster says.

“Start with Hello” will be happening all week at Broadway Academy:

- **Monday, September 24** - PowerPoint shown in Student Activity periods
*PowerPoint is attached
- **Tuesday, September 25** - "Hey Day"- Morning Greeting at the door by FOR Club / Kindness Links (at lunch)

- **Wednesday, September 26** - "Human Bingo" during Student Activity periods (prize for the winner of each SA)
- **Thursday, September 27**- Selfie Day (during lunch)
- **Friday, September 28**- Wear Green Day (Sandy Hook Promise Color)

ABOUT 'START WITH HELLO'

This program enables students to make a difference with their peers in a simple, fun, and impactful way by encouraging them to take small but powerful actions to promote connectedness and inclusion, and to identify and help others who are showing signs of social isolation.

Social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely or treated like you are invisible. Young people who feel this way may pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development, or choose to hurt themselves or others.

ABOUT THE ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Elmira City School District is a dynamic and innovative learning organization dedicated to developing learners of character who value their educational experience and can compete globally and contribute locally by collaborating with students, families, and community partners to provide meaningful opportunities in a safe and engaging environment for all.

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