



January 9, 2025

Dear Freeman K-3 Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! We want to inform you this month about an important program we will be bringing to our students in February. As part of our commitment to keeping students safe, we will be teaching a lesson about child abuse prevention in every classroom from Kindergarten through 3rd grade. This once-per-year lesson is 30 minutes long and taught by our school counselor, Stacey Rawson.

Teaching this lesson annually is part of a law called *Erin's Law*, which requires schools in almost all states nationwide to provide child abuse prevention education to students and to ensure that staff are adequately trained to prevent and report suspected child abuse. The goal of the prevention lesson is to help children understand what safe, respectful touch looks like, as well as how to speak up if something makes them feel uncomfortable.

Unfortunately, child abuse is a serious issue. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 7 children experience child abuse or neglect in the United States. Additionally, studies show that nearly 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before they turn 18. These statistics are troubling, but they also highlight why it's so important for children to learn about their rights, how to recognize unsafe situations, and who to turn to for help.

The lesson in each classroom will be taught by our school counselor, and she will follow the developmentally-appropriate *Protect Yourself Rules* curriculum, which is from a trusted program at [Fight Child Abuse](http://FightChildAbuse.org) (www.fightchildabuse.org). The lesson will focus on teaching students how to recognize safe and unsafe situations including "Stranger Danger", understand their right to say no to unwanted/ unsafe situations, and know who to talk to if they feel worried or unsafe.

We believe that this program is an important part of helping children understand how to stay safe, and we want to make sure you feel comfortable with the material being taught. All lesson plans, handouts and lesson materials are available on FightChildAbuse.Org.

If you have any questions, would like more information about the lesson in your child's class, or would like to opt-out of the lesson for your student, please contact the school counselor, Stacey Rawson, at srawson@freemansd.org or call 509-291-4790.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Lisa Phelan

Principal, Freeman Elementary School