

CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DARRYL TAYLOR, JR.

Superintendent Of Schools

20859 Central Ave. East, RM-G20 • Blountstown, FL 32424 • Phone: 850-674-5927 • Fax: 850-674-5814

In July 2019, the Florida Department of Education mandated that every Florida public school provide students in grades 6-12 at least five hours of mental health instruction. This mandate further solidified the State of Florida's commitment to ensuring Florida's school children are provided all the tools necessary to succeed in life. The instruction must include:

- a. Awareness of mental health signs and symptoms;
- b. Process for getting or seeking help for themselves or others;
- c. Awareness of resources (i.e., Fortify Florida app and the National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255); and
- d. What to do or say to peers struggling with mental health disorders.

For the 21-22 school year, we have requested various presentations be held for students to cover the following topics:

- (a) Recognition of signs and symptoms of mental health disorders;
- (b) Prevention of mental health disorders;
- (c) Mental health awareness and assistance;
- (d) How to reduce the stigma around mental health disorders;
- (e) Awareness of resources, including local school and community resources;
- (f) The process for accessing treatment;
- (g) Strategies to develop healthy coping techniques;
- (h) Strategies to support a peer, friend, or family member with a mental health disorder;
- (i) Prevention of suicide; and
- (j) Prevention of the abuse and addiction to alcohol, nicotine, and drugs.

On October 26, 2021, Emma Benoit will deliver her own poignant story of her attempted suicide by delivering a documentary entitled My Ascension to all 6-12th graders. This event will last two hours.

On November 8th and 9th 2021, Marina Anderson with the Department of Children and Families will present an overview of human trafficking and the myths and misconceptions surrounding this topic. This event will last one hour and will be presented to all 6th -12th graders.

On January 6th and 7th 2021, Kevin Warren, Empowerment Speaker from The LIFE Group will present to all 6th-12th graders on the topics of signs and symptoms of mental health disorders, mental health awareness and assistance, how to reduce stigmas associated with mental health disorders and the prevention of substance abuse and addiction. This event will last two hours.

Danny Ryals
District 1

Ray Howell
District 2

Clifford Newsome
District 3

Kenneth Speights
District 4

Danny Hassig
District 5