

Dear Parent/s and/or Guardian/s,

There was Missouri Legislation passed in 2018, stating that each Missouri School District will implement youth suicide awareness and prevention.

“As stated, starting no later than fifth grade, students will receive age appropriate information and instruction on suicide awareness and prevention. Information and instruction may be offered in health education, by the counseling staff or in other curricula as may be appropriate.”
(Section 170.048, RSMo)

Youth suicide and depression are serious concerns that our community has seen growing in numbers. Suicide the second leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24 in Missouri and is a public health concern impacting all Missouri citizens. The Orrick School District is committed to maintaining a safe environment to protect the health, safety and welfare of students.
(Missouri Institute of Mental Health, 2020)

During the week of **November 9-13, 5th and 6th graders** will be presented information about suicide awareness and prevention.

Topics include:

- Current trends in youth mental health
- Warning signs and risk factors of suicide
- Signs of depression
- Strategies how to seek help for self and others

*If you would prefer your student to **NOT** attend this lesson, please email or call, Mrs. Mason, Elementary Counselor by **Friday, November 6th.***

Thank you for your time,
Mrs. Mason
Elementary Counselor
816-770-3922 ext. 226
rmason@orrick.k12.mo.us