

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

We all share a common goal for our children to be safe and protected from all things harmful. Related to that goal, school counselors are required to present annual personal safety lessons designed to prevent sexual abuse. The *Think First & Stay Safe™* program is a research-based program that teaches specific personal safety education by way of interactive classroom lessons, classroom posters, role playing and corresponding activities. *Think First & Stay Safe™* enables students to take an active and necessary role in protecting themselves from abuse and exploitation. A committee of professional school counselors reviewed the program and selected components that were developmentally appropriate for elementary students and developed lessons around those concepts.

Due to the importance of this topic, I want you to know when and how you may preview the materials and when the counselors will be presenting this information to your child's class. Please contact your child's counselor, Dr. Kentosha Cody at kentosha.cody@gcpsk12.org or Lisa Sanchez at lisa.sanchez@gcpsk12.org to schedule a preview or if you have any questions or concerns. The materials will be available for preview. Our school counselors will offer the sexual abuse prevention and safety lessons to all K-5 students.

You can also learn more about the detailed lesson plans and research behind this program at www.childluresprevention.com. Please be aware that more information is provided on the website than is actually used in Gwinnett County. The plan for Gwinnett includes: the key concepts taught at all grade levels; each grade reviews what was learned in the previous grade(s) and then learns additional lures or tricks. Specifics are provided below:

Key Concepts	You can use your built-in computer and make safe choices.	People are like the weather. Most are safe, but they can change.	Lures are tricks used to get children away from safe adults and safe place.	Laws help protect children and there are adults who can help you.
	Your instincts help keep you safe.	A stranger is someone you don't know.	Someone may even use threats to trick you.	No one can take away your dignity.
K	Review key concepts	Pet Lure	Name Lure	
1 st	Review key concepts	Assistance Lure	Fun & Games Lure	Affection Lure
2 nd	Review key concepts	Bribery Lure	Friendship Lure	
3 rd	Review key concepts	Emergency Lure	Authority Lure	Hero Lure
4 th	Review key concepts	Job Lure	Ego/Fame Lure	e-Lure & Drug Lure
5 th	Review key concepts	Review All Lures	Video: <i>Breaking the Silence</i>	

School counselors provide both in-person and virtual services that support students' academic success, career development, and social-emotional needs. Though confidentiality is important, virtual learning presents limitations that are outside of the school counselor's control. Virtual school counseling sessions may include unintended viewers or recipients, as there may be a parent/guardian, siblings, or extended family close by during the virtual session.

If you prefer that your child not participate in the sexual abuse and safety prevention lessons, please write and sign a note indicating your preferences and send it to your child's teacher or school counselor. As always, counselors are available to discuss any concerns you might have. Unless written documentation is received, your child will participate in the sexual abuse prevention and safety lessons.

Sincerely,

Katoria Gaston
Principal of Norton Elementary School