

[Insert Date]

Dear Families,

Effective January 1, 2018, the *Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act* (Assembly Bill 1227) requires all school districts in California to provide human trafficking prevention education for students once in middle school and once in high school. Bridges Charter School will be using a program called PROTECT (Prevention Organized To Educate Children on Trafficking) to provide this required training to our students and staff. Between now and the end of the school year, PROTECT's grade-specific curriculum will be taught over the course of several days.

The PROTECT program was developed by three nonprofits in conjunction with the California Department of Education and the Office of the Attorney General. The curriculum is in line with the state standards of the *California Healthy Youth Act* and the *Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Training Act*, and is a statewide initiative designed to increase the ability of our youth to understand their own vulnerability. There are many ways that people are exploited in our world and PROTECT was designed to reduce vulnerability and exploitation.

I invite you to learn more about the program by visiting: www.protectnow.org.

If you do not want your child to participate, you must notify the school.

Brief Overview of the Middle School Ages 11-14 PROTECT Curriculum

Protecting a Masterpiece

Through the context of masterpieces of art, students are given the opportunity to see themselves as unique masterpieces worthy of respect, love and care. Students learn about the types of child abuse (including sexual exploitation), ways to develop personal boundaries, and the importance of reporting any situations of abuse or human trafficking to a safe and trusted adult.

Education Code: Growth, Development, and Sexual Health; Injury Prevention and Safety; Mental, Emotional and Social Health

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school office.

Sincerely,

Cindy McCarthy
Assistant Director
805-492-3569

