



J. Alvin Wilbanks
CEO/Superintendent



Dr. Christopher Ray
Principal

Marisa Kana
Assistant Principal

Dr. Ginger O'Neal
Assistant Principal

OUR MISSION:

The mission of Gwinnett Online Campus is to enhance the learning of students in a world-class virtual environment as we empower them with twenty-first century knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the local, national, and global community.

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Dear 7th Grade Parents,

According to statistics, over five thousand youth in America take their lives by suicide each year. That means there are approximately:

- ten youth suicides for every 100,000 youth each year,
- eleven youth suicides every day, and
- one person under the age of twenty-one who commits suicide every two hours and eleven minutes (Underwood & Kalafat, 2009).

Gwinnett County Public Schools has taken the subject of protecting our students very seriously and has incorporated specific suicide prevention lessons into the seventh grade Health curriculum. Because of GOC's unique learning environment, these specific lessons are not in our students' lessons. Instead, Coach Blair and I will teach the lessons face to face on Thursday, February 16 and Thursday, March 2. Students can bring a lunch on these two days and eat before the lessons begin at 12:30. Parent pick-up is 1:30 each day.

These lessons will teach students:

- age-appropriate facts about suicide, including warning signs,
- how to recognize the danger of suicidal thoughts and behavior,
- to take students with suicide ideation seriously and how to respond to troubled peers, and
- to identify at least one helpful adult.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me or Coach Blair. We look forward to having your students with us for the lessons.

Sincerely,
Dana Edwards, Ph.D.
School Counselor for 4th-8th Grade Students