



October 28, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Mater Dei Catholic High School is committed to providing a safe environment for all who worship, work or participate in education and formation opportunities in our parishes and schools. The problem of child sexual abuse is a serious one. A child suffers sexual abuse somewhere in our country every thirteen seconds.

As the primary educators of your student, you are entrusted with the responsibility of providing appropriate information regarding how to keep your student safe from sexual abuse. Empowered parents can develop and maintain an environment of trust in the home that allows youth to discuss any topic, any fear and any experience they are having. Potential abusers will avoid youth who have such an open and honest relationship with their parents because abusers depend upon secrecy to avoid suspicion.

In compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the topic of safe environment will be introduced to your student on Monday, November 2nd and Tuesday, November 3rd in the following manner:

Your student's Theology teacher will be showing a presentation which will cover the following topics:

- *Characteristics of casual and close boundaries in relationships
- *Meaning and methods of emotional grooming employed by sexual abusers
- *Skills to respond to grooming techniques and to protect themselves from sexual abuse
- *Reporting abuse

If you would like to preview the power point presentation it will be available through the Diocesan Website for your convenience at <https://www.safeinourdiocese.org/prevention/safe-environment-program/>.

A copy will also be available on the school website under the "Parents" tab at https://www.materdeicatholic.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1039102&type=d&pREC_ID=1229287 or at the parish Youth Ministry office.

Your student will be told that you will continue this discussion with him/her at home. Included in this packet are materials that will help you with that conversation.

Sincerely,

Frank Stingo
Principal

(Gr.11.ZGG.10.27.20)