



October 4, 2023

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

We are excited to share that Bedford County Schools (BCS) will once again be celebrating **Unity Day this year on Wednesday, October 18**. This is an annual event occurring during National Bullying Prevention Month in October that promotes joining together to create healthier communities through kindness, acceptance and inclusion. It was started by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center in 2011 and is now celebrated around the world. We appreciate the history of the PACER organization, which began in 1977 with a project called Parents Helping Parents that was dedicated to improving the lives of children with disabilities. Today, same philosophy remains the foundation upon which PACER has grown, helping ensure all children have a brighter future.

As a school community we are encouraging everyone to wear orange on Unity Day. The color is commonly identified with the month and the autumn season, but it is also a color that is associated with safety and visibility. It is a color described as warm and inviting. Our schools will be participating in numerous events throughout the month of October, so tune in to our social media platforms to see all the activities.

I will be live on Facebook's Shelbyville Now on Thursday, October 5 at 1:00 PM & live on WLII on Thursday, October 19 at 9:00 AM. We will be sharing these programs on our Facebook page in case you miss it live. Also, our October Board Meeting will be held October 19 at 6:00 PM where our Social and Emotional Learning/Mental Health Coordinator Lindsay Wiley will be speaking about Unity Day and the impact our policy holders can make. Representative Pat Marsh and Senator Shane Reeves will be our special guests that evening as well.

We hope you'll take this opportunity to talk to your children about bullying prevention and all the positive things we can do to make healthier communities. For more information on the history of Unity Day and its impact, please go to <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/unity-day.asp>. You can also visit our BCS website for more resources and information: <https://www.bedfordk12tn.com/MentalHealth/>.

Thank you for helping us rise up against bullying and for celebrating Unity Day on 10/18 by wearing orange, a way for everyone to come together with a visual statement that our actions matter not only on one day, but every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy Garrett".

Dr. Tammy Garrett
Superintendent of Schools