

**BIGFORK ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

**600 Commerce P.O. Box 188**

**BIGFORK, MT 59911**

**Telephone: (406) 837-7412—Fax: (406) 837-7438**

**Brenda Clarke, Elementary Principal**

**Charlie Appleby Middle School Principal**

---

September 20, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I would like to let you know about Bigfork School's **voluntary** Student Assistance Program. This program is available to all Bigfork Middle School students and consists of peer support groups led by specially trained teachers and/or community members during the school day.

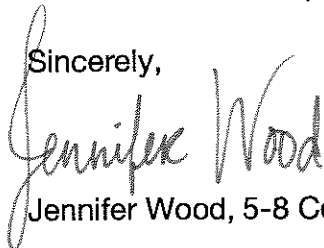
The goals of these groups are to build healthy relationships, improve communication and develop decision and problem solving strategies. Students who participate in a group gain valuable life-long skills and are better equipped to effectively cope with pressures associated with the adolescent years.

Students will have the opportunity to sign up for a support group throughout the year as needed. Groups are scheduled so that students only miss one class period once a week for eight weeks. Students are expected to check in with their classroom teacher prior to each group and must make up any missed work. I do my best to schedule group time during an elective that requires little to no makeup work.

You can support this program by encouraging your son or daughter to sign up for a group, and by respecting the confidentiality of these groups. Students are encouraged to share with you what they are learning about in group, but are not allowed to repeat what other group members have shared within the group setting.

This program is fully supported by our district administration and faculty as it has had a positive impact on school climate as well as benefiting individual students. If you have any questions regarding this voluntary program or you would like to opt-out your student(s) from participating in the Student Assistance Program, please call me at 837-7412 ext. 4157 or email me at [jwood@bigfork.k12.mt.us](mailto:jwood@bigfork.k12.mt.us).

Sincerely,



Jennifer Wood, 5-8 Counselor