



# ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

---

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447  
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260  
301-853-4500 TDD 301-853-5300

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Ensuring a safe environment for all of our students has always been a top priority in the Archdiocese of Washington. As noted in our Child Protection Policy:

“All children have the right to be safe and protected from harm in any and all environments – home, school, religious instruction, neighborhoods and communities. The Archdiocese of Washington embraces this right to safety and is dedicated to promoting and ensuring the protection of all children.”  
(Child Protection Policy, p.3)

In keeping with this commitment, we are again moving forward to provide the scheduled annual Personal Safety Education training sessions required by this policy. In fact we are directed to provide “basic training sessions that include but are not limited to the following subjects:

- a. Basic Safety skills
- b. Recognition of dangerous and abusive situations
- c. Appropriate and inappropriate physical contact and other interpersonal boundary violations.
- d. Ability to say “no” to unwanted situation
- e. Ability to identify trusting adults with whom to speak
- f. Importance of disclosure if inappropriate or unwanted actions are directed to self or others
- g. Recognition that abusive situations are never the fault of the child.”

(Child Protection Policy p.13)


The Personal Safety Education (PSE) program will utilize *The Child Lures Prevention School Program* as the starting point for delivering student safe environment training. The PSE program will also include in-service training for principals and support staff, templates for teacher lesson plans, and additional Catholic materials which offer invaluable assistance for implementation of this important training.

During the PSE program students will be presented with lessons for everyday adaptability, preparing students to recognize and avoid potentially dangerous situations now and in the future. We will continue to employ this program as a first step in the development of our health curricula. It will be in strict alignment with our religion program, emphasizing the God-given dignity of every student, respect of self and others as well as an emphasis on Catholic moral teachings.

Our gratitude is extended to all of you for your support and encouragement as we work together, family and school, to place the safety and welfare of our students as paramount to all that we do.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia A. Weitzel-O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Patricia A. Weitzel-O'Neill, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools