Dear Nashua Public Schools Families,

We are pleased to bring Rachel's Challenge to Nashua Public Schools on October 20, 2026. Rachel's Challenge is a nationwide program created following the Columbine High School tragedy in honor of Rachel Scott and the other lives lost that day. Rachel's legacy of kindness and compassion continues to inspire positive change in schools and communities across the country.

After Rachel's passing, her family discovered journals, writings, and countless stories from people whose lives she had touched through simple, genuine acts of kindness. They realized that her story had the power to transform the way we treat one another and how we view ourselves and others.

At its core, Rachel's Challenge promotes kindness, compassion, connection, and positive relationships as ways to help prevent bullying, isolation, and other behaviors that can negatively affect students' well-being. The program encourages students to recognize the impact their words and actions can have on others and to make intentional choices that contribute to a more supportive school community.

Rachel's Challenge is more than a program—it is a catalyst for hope and positive change. It encourages students to break down the barriers that can lead to isolation, harassment, and despair while fostering connection, reflection, and compassion. When students feel seen, valued, and supported, individuals and communities can be positively transformed.

About the Presentation

Rachel's Challenge presentations are designed with input from educators and mental health professionals to ensure that the content is age-appropriate and trauma-informed. The heart of the program is focused on hope, connection, kindness, and practical ways to create a more positive school culture. Each grade-level presentation will last approximately one hour.

- **Elementary Students (K–5):** The presentation contains no reference to the Columbine tragedy. Instead, it focuses entirely on kindness, empathy, friendship, and positive relationships.
- **Middle School Students (6–8):** The Columbine tragedy is introduced at an intensity level appropriate for middle school students. The program introduces students to Rachel Scott and her challenge to deliberately reach out to others with kindness and compassion.
- **Secondary Students (9–12):** The presentation briefly references the events surrounding Rachel's story through short segments of news coverage from that

day. The footage is non-graphic and primarily shows the outside of the school, with a brief glimpse inside for context. These moments make up only a small portion of a program that is otherwise centered on hope, connection, kindness, and positive change.

Parent Options

We understand that families may have individual preferences regarding their child's participation. **If you prefer that your child not attend the Rachel's Challenge presentation, please submit a written request to the school office.** We will make arrangements for your child to participate in an appropriate alternative activity.

For more information about Rachel's Challenge, please visit:
https://rachelschallenge.org/

Thank you for your partnership as we work to foster a school community where students feel valued, supported, connected, and empowered to make a positive difference.

Sincerely,

Susan Hoyer
Superintendent
Nashua Public Schools