



SPRINGFIELD GARDENS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 59
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"We are not interested in saving a hundred kids, we want to talk about how you save kids by the tens of thousands, because that's how we're losing them." Geoffrey Canada

February 5, 2024

Re: Play fighting

Dear I.S. 59 Parents and Students,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to take a moment to discuss an important matter that impacts the safety and well-being of our entire school community. It has come to our attention that there have been instances of play fighting on school premises. While we understand that play is a natural part of social interaction, it is crucial to recognize the potential consequences and the need for responsible behavior. Here are a few reasons why play fighting can be problematic:

- **Safety Concerns:** Play fighting, even when intended as harmless, can lead to accidental injuries. What may start as a playful gesture can quickly escalate, resulting in unintended harm to oneself or others.
- **Misinterpretation:** Play fighting may be misinterpreted by others, causing unnecessary concern or fear among students, teachers, and staff. In a school environment, it's crucial that everyone feels safe and secure.
- **Disruption to Learning:** Play fighting can disrupt the learning environment and distract others from focusing on their studies. Our primary goal is to create a conducive atmosphere for academic growth and personal development.

While we understand that the intention behind play fighting may be lighthearted, we must prioritize the safety and well-being of everyone in our school community. Therefore, **the immediate result of playfighting on school premises is SUSPENSION!** We encourage students to consider the following alternatives:

- **Educational Sessions:** We will organize educational sessions with guidance counselors to discuss the potential risks associated with play fighting. These sessions will provide valuable insights into the importance of responsible behavior and its impact on the school community.
- **Restorative Practices:** Engage in restorative practices that allow those involved in play fighting to reflect on their actions, understand the consequences, and work together to find positive solutions.
- **Community Building Activities:** Participate in community-building activities that promote positive interactions, teamwork, and healthy relationships among students. These activities can contribute to a more positive school culture.

It is my hope that by addressing this issue proactively, we can create a safer and more inclusive environment for everyone. Let's work together to ensure that our school remains a place where learning, respect, and responsibility thrive.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Clarence Darby

Clarence Darby
Assistant Principal I.S. 59