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PRESS RELEASE



** Michigan Rolls Out OK2SAY Initiative at SABIS® Network School **

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Contact Name: Ms. Amy Wesley
Contact Number: +1 952 918-1850
Email: awesley@sabis.net

For Immediate Release

On September 11, 2014, Michigan Attorney General, Bill Schuette, visited the **International Academy of Flint (IAF)**, a SABIS® Network school in Michigan, U.S., to launch the state-wide OK2SAY initiative. Attorney General Schuette was joined by several guests from school district, local law enforcement officers, parents, students, and anti-bullying speaker and performer, Keenan West.

OK2SAY is a new initiative by the state of Michigan that aims to put an end to bullying, harassment, and violence in schools across the state. OK2SAY adopts a new approach to keeping kids safe in schools by placing some of the responsibility in the students' hands encouraging them to share information on potential school violence via a 24-hour hotline, text message, E-mail, or website. According to official reports, in 81% of violent incidents in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker knew about the plan but didn't report it. The OK2SAY initiative provides students a kid-friendly, safe, and anonymous way to contribute to the prevention of violence, intimidation, and bullying in schools.



IAF Students pose for photo with Attorney General Schuette

"We are very proud to have been selected as one of the six schools across the state to be asked to participate in Attorney General Schuette's push to spread the word about the OK2SAY initiative," said Ms. Kendra Giles, IAF School Director.

IAF, like all SABIS® Network schools, is not new to efforts to eradicate bullying. The SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) at IAF organizes a number of activities to raise awareness and address bullying. In the 2012-13 academic year, IAF set up the Middle School Peace Council made up of IAF students dedicated to eradicating bullying in the school. Additionally, last year IAF participated in a joint initiative between the Michigan Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. The joint initiative was designed to ensure that school districts have the support they need to implement effective anti-bullying programs.

"Student buy-in and involvement in eradicating bullying at school is at the very core of the SABIS Student Life Organization® and this state-wide initiative reinforces our message and our efforts," added Giles.

The International Academy of Flint, a member of the global SABIS® School Network, opened its doors in 1999 and currently serves nearly 1,200 students in grades K-12. IAF is a successful charter school and recipient of numerous academic awards.

For more information about IAF, visit iaf-sabis.net. To view coverage of the OK2SAY event at IAF on ABC 12, visit <http://bit.ly/1uz5Yqh>.

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