

## **Trauma Informed Schools**

- All adults, teaching and non-teaching staff receive trauma informed in-services; it takes only one disparaging facial expression to shatter the emotional security of a school.
- All adult staff will remember that students who were not afforded the opportunity to experience solid early attachments have great difficulty practicing expected social skills, especially on the playground, in the cafeteria, in the halls, and on the bus.
- All adult staff will remember that what is commonly called anger is actually fear and insecurity which means a trauma informed school will develop strategies that offer stressed students the opportunity to transform and externalize un-processed traumatic memories that will not create new victims.
- All adults will appreciate the correlation between intense competition, stress, and previous experiences of helplessness and bullying behaviors.
- All adults will remember that those who engage in bullying find relief for their fears and stress when they see fear in the eyes of their target.
- All adults will refrain from making threats; emotional, psychological, or physical.
- Students who do not receive respect cannot give it; practicing mutual respect is part of trauma informed schools and students will be held accountable for building resolutions for personal behavior issues.
- All adults will remember that students with un-processed traumatic memories interpret standard disciplinary practices as rejection and shame.
- All adults will remember that discipline does not heal trauma or build new neurological wiring and connections.