Sept. 6, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian of 6th-12th Graders,

The Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey/Youth Tobacco Survey (MYRBS/YTS) is conducted by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The survey is given every two years since 2012 and we are scheduled for fall 2022 administration. The survey provides the state with data on youth health risk behaviors identified by the CDC. Students are encouraged to participate so that state and local programs can address these risk behaviors.

**Things to know about the survey:**

- The entire survey is confidential and completely anonymous
- The survey is specifically designed to protect student privacy
- The survey is voluntary
- Students will not put their names anywhere on the survey
- Students can skip questions that they are not comfortable answering
- Students in grades 6-12 will be randomly selected

We appreciate your cooperation and partnership in this survey and please know that this data is used in many ways, as we combat risk factors such as, underage alcohol usage, frequency of youth vaping, child nutritional habits and obesity data, etc. This data is used by our schools, local health department and other agencies in grant applications to secure funding to improve youth risk factors right here in Worcester County. If you would NOT like your child to participate, please sign this form and return it to your school's front office. If you agree to allow your child take the survey, you are not asked to take any action. If you have questions about the survey, its content and/or usage, please contact Tamara Mills (tjmills@worcesterk12.org) at the central office.

Thank you,

LH Taylor
Superintendent of Schools

☐ No, my child ______________________ may not take part in this survey.

Parent Signature __________________________ Date _________________