

CHEROKEE BEND ELEMENTARY
GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING DEPARTMENT
4400 Fair Oaks Drive
Mountain Brook, Alabama 35213
(205) 871-3595, (205) 877-8312
witcherl@mtnbrook.k12.al.us

September 4, 2014

Dear Parents of 5th Grade Boys:

Your son is invited to participate in a small group for boys, that is really an extension of whole class guidance just for boys. This group is about being good friends, developing positive images of masculinity, creating a positive identity that aligns with each boy's values, and having fun together. In this group, boys will explore what it means to grow up in our modern society while practicing interpersonal skills that assist in healthy relationships and begin their development of a positive self-identity. This is not a problem-focused group. It will be offered to **all boys this year in 5th grade**. The boys who participated last year really enjoyed the experience.

The group will meet once weekly from 2:15-2:50, with an exception for weeks where I must do guidance at that time. Curriculum is developed from Dr. Poppy Moon's *Operation: Breaking the Boy Code* which outlines a fun 8 week guidance program that pulls positive references from literature such as *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table* and legends and folklore from Native American traditions, Japanese Bushido Tenants and several others. Boys will create projects individually and as a group that they are proud of and have meaning to them. Boys will have folders during the group, but we keep them in the guidance room until the end, just to keep up with our projects.

In order for your son to participate, he will need your signature giving permission on the form below. You can keep the top portion of this letter for your information. Electronic permission for participation will be accepted by replying to me with an email statement giving permission. If you have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Sincerely,

Laura G. Witcher, MA, NBPTS
Counselor

5th Grade 2014-2015 Boy's small group Student Name Printed _____

My son, _____, has my permission to participate in the 5th grade boys' small group with the school counselor.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Parent email and phone numbers: _____