

September 13, 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

One part of our District's Continuous Improvement Plan is the area of Student Mental Well-Being. To continue improving our system of support in this area, we will begin using a new universal mental well-being screening tool. Just like we do with health, vision, hearing, and academic screenings, we will administer a mental well-being screening tool to help identify the social and emotional needs of our students.

The screening tool consists of a brief online rating scale called the BIMAS-2 (Behavioral Intervention Monitoring Assessment System-2nd Edition). Information from the BIMAS-2 will allow us to develop more effective, whole-school, classroom, and individual intervention plans (when and if needed with parent input and permission).

During the 2024-2025 school year, the screening will be completed by the student's classroom teacher for students in grades K-4, and the screening will be completed by the students in grades 7 and 9. We will continue to expand the screening process to more grade levels over time. This universal screening will become part of our ongoing process to monitor and support our students' mental well-being.

We want you to know that one important aspect of the screening process is to help identify students who have had thoughts of hurting themselves recently. On the day of the screening, if it is reported that a student has had thoughts like this, a staff member will contact the student individually and confidentially to ensure their safety. You would then be notified via phone call by a student services staff member who will connect with you to discuss possible next steps and resources for you to consider.

If you do NOT want your student(s) to participate in the BIMAS-2 screening, an Opt-Out Form at kasd.us/optout must be completed for each student by September 25, 2024. If we do not receive an opt-out form on or before the listed date, we will assume your student has permission to participate. If you choose to opt your student(s) out, they will continue to be opted out unless you email kasdstudentservices@kaukaunasd.org to opt them back in for future screening.

Students in grades 7 and 9 can opt out of the screening themselves. If you have not opted your student out of the screening and then your student chooses to opt out, you will be notified.

We aim to address the needs of as many students as possible with this screening. If you would like more information about the BIMAS-2 universal screening and other district mental well-being supports, please visit the <a href="Mental Well-Being page">Mental Well-Being page</a> and/or contact a member of the student services team included on the <a href="Student Services page">Student Services page</a> of the Kaukauna Area School District website.