



**LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Jonas E. Salk Middle School**  
**Old Jerusalem Road**  
**Levittown, New York 11756**  
**(516) 520-8470 - Fax: (516) 520-8479**



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John Zampaglione, Principal

Patrick Mulligan, Assistant Principal

October 21, 2014

Dear Parents,

As you may already know, we have had our character education program, RISE, since 2006. The RISE program was created by teachers and staff at Salk. RISE stands for Responsibility, Integrity, Safety & Staying Healthy and Empathy. The goal of the program is to create a safe and caring school community where everyone feels accepted and respected.

Our RISE program has grown significantly since then as we have constantly scrutinized it and added new facets in an effort to make it something for our school community to be proud of. The idea of the program is to offer students examples of good character as well as opportunities to exhibit it. In an effort to keep improving our program and our school we are going to ask the students to fill out a School Climate Survey. Students will be asked to fill out the survey during period one on Monday October 27, since it is the first day of RISE/LEADD Week. The opinions of our students are very important to us and will be helpful in knowing where to focus our efforts in moving forward with the program.

Last year we were awarded as an “Emerging School of Character” from the prestigious Academy of Character Education at the Sage College. This year we have hit the ground running and would love to take the RISE Program to the next level. That level is to be named a “National School of Character”. We have already formed a new and more permanent RISE Committee. We would like to increase parent involvement in our RISE committee and activities throughout the school year. Please check our Salk/RISE website for upcoming events, news and articles.

Sincerely,

John Zampaglione