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To Whom It May Concern:

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www.piscatawayschools.org

Tricia and Kurt Baker came to Schor on February 13, 2013 to present Attitudes in Reverse (A.I.R) to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in our student body. Schor has a diverse student body of approximately 600 students from a range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds; according to their self-identification, the student population is 27% Asian, 41% Black, 15% Hispanic, 1.5% Multiracial , .17% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 16.5% White and 33.3% receive free and reduced lunch.

Tricia and Kurt Baker ran an interactive presentation that worked to raise awareness of mental health concerns in our student population. The program highlighted some myths and facts about mental illness. The A.I.R presentation asked students to choose which celebrities they felt had struggled with mental illness; the presentation then highlighted the successful paths, and varied history, of many famous people. Tricia and Kurt Baker also told the students about the struggles they had witnessed within their own family; they shared their personal struggles with their son's suicide, as well as, other's reactions to his passing away. This personal revelation touched a chord in many of the students and staff at Schor. Students appeared interested in the program and it brought to light concerns that encouraged the students to reach out to the counseling department.

A.I.R's presentation creates a comprehensive picture of mental health. Tricia and Kurt Baker work to make sure that students are aware that many people struggle with mental illness and that there are many people to whom the student's can reach out to ask for help. I think that this is a great presentation for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Thank you for your time,

Kaitlin D. Dongates

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