

Aledo Independent School District Board of Trustees Proclamation 2019 *Start with Hello* Week

Whereas, social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely, or treated like you are invisible, and

Whereas, social isolation is a growing epidemic in the United States and within our schools, and

Whereas, excessive feelings of isolation can be associated with violent and suicidal behavior, and

Whereas, young people who are isolated can become victims of bullying, violence and/or depression and as a result, may further pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development and/or choose to hurt themselves or others, and

Whereas, *Start with Hello* teaches students, grades 2-12, the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic social isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school or youth organization, and

Whereas, in addition to young people, *Start With Hello* will benefit educators, administrators, community based organization leaders and parents, and

Whereas, by building a culture of inclusion and connectedness, schools and communities can better support their young people and reduce their risk of bullying, violence and depression, and

Whereas, Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is a national, nonprofit organization based in Newtown, Connecticut and is led by several family members whose loved ones were killed in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 that claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and 6 educators; SHP is focused on preventing gun violence (and other forms of violence and victimization) BEFORE it happens by educating and mobilizing youth and adults on mental health and wellness programs that identify, intervene and help at-risk individuals, and

Whereas, one of Sandy Hook Promise's core violence prevention programs, *Start With Hello*, is being celebrated as part of *Start With Hello* Week, September 23, 2019 at Aledo Independent School District; and

Whereas, through *Start With Hello*, young people will build a more connected and inclusive classroom, school and community.

Therefore, we, the trustees of the Aledo Independent School District Board of Trustees of Aledo, Texas, do recognize and commemorate the importance of this program and hereby proclaim September 23, 2019 to be *Start With Hello* Week in the Aledo Independent School District of Aledo, Texas, and encourage all our students, staff, parents, and community members to recognize the significance of *Start With Hello*.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 16th day of September, 2019

By: _____
Name: Hoyt Harris
Title: President

By: _____
Name: David Lear
Title: Member

By: _____
Name: Jennifer Loftin
Title: Vice President

By: _____
Name: Julie Turner
Title: Member

By: _____
Name: Forrest Collins
Title: Secretary

By: _____
Name: Jennifer Taylor
Title: Member

By: _____
Name: Jessica Brown
Title: Member