

NEWS RELEASE

Wayne Township Board of Education

November 3, 2016
For Immediate Release

Contact Information:
Mark Toback
Superintendent of Schools
(973) 633-3000
mtoback@wayneschools.com

Wayne Middle Schools Kick Off Red Ribbon Week with a Visit from Matt Mayberry



Pictured from left to right

Jack Leonard, GW Principal, Danny McCabe, Matt Wilderson, Jack Freed, Matt Mayberry, Tammy McNutt, Jennifer Kruszewski, Ariel White, Kevin Smilon, GW Assistant Principal, Kerrian Palmieri, WEA 2nd Vice President, Laura Stinziano, Wayne Alliance.

On Monday, October 24th the Wayne middle school students were invited to an Assembly sponsored by the Wayne Alliance, the Wayne Education Association, and the Eskow Family. The students quietly listened to Matt Mayberry talk about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Matt Mayberry is a recovering addict who turned his efforts towards professional sports. Through dedication to his recovery, he made it to the NFL, only to have a career ending injury during his first game. He took the negative situation and turned it into a positive by refocusing his efforts on becoming a motivational speaker to inform others about the dangers of addiction.

Matt Mayberry made a stop at all three Wayne Middle Schools to educate and motivate our students into making positive life choices. During the assembly at George Washington Middle School, there was silence across the crowd while the students listened to how quickly Mayberry's life had fallen apart and the impact on his family, all because of his addiction. The importance of making healthy choices was emphasized through the presentation and at the end students were given the opportunity to ask questions. The assembly had a message that was well received by both students and staff. Robbin Gulino from the Wayne Alliance said, "It was great that the assembly closed by giving the students homework of planning goals for each day and to carefully choose their actions and friends."

This program was organized by the Wayne Alliance. The Wayne Alliance is made up of volunteers and has been serving the Wayne community for over 20 years. They are constant advocates for making healthy drug-free choices through prevention, intervention and education. The Wayne Education Association knows how important this mission is and frequently partners with the Wayne Alliance to support programs around Wayne. Matt Mayberry has also donated and a signed copy of his book to each middle school Media Center for the students to access at any time.

###