

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Central Bucks Middle Schools began in 2004 as a way for middle-level students across the district to get involved in the fight against cancer. Prior to the day of that first event, no one really had an idea of how successful Relay was going to be.

In the years since that time we have celebrated the tremendous success of our students. We have been the highest attended American Cancer Society event in Pennsylvania for the last three years running. Our network of cancer survivors and caregivers has climbed from just 7 in 2004 to nearly 600 in 2011. Since we first began our time with this tradition, we have raised over 1.7 million dollars in the fight against cancer.

The growth that we have experienced in recent years is both exciting and unsustainable. Since 2004, every year that the gates open on the track an additional 1,000 people are in attendance: 2011 saw the number of people on the property surpass 7,400.

As responsible event organizers, we have a duty not only to determine places within a reasonable distance for everyone to park, but more importantly to maintain a safe and orderly environment throughout the day and ensure that we are all able to quickly seek shelter in the event of severe weather. Last year we were at the tipping point for being able to provide these important services at our Relay. Looking ahead to 2012, we needed to take a look at how to maintain safety and order for all of our students and guests on this special day.

This school year, Relay for Life will be an opportunity for only 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in our five buildings, their chaperones, and our cancer survivors and caregivers. Arriving at this decision was not an easy process, as we are well aware of the strong commitment our community has for this event. However, in order for the event to safely continue in the future, this was determined to be the best way to manage our ever-growing numbers.

Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will continue to have the opportunity to participate in a myriad of service learning projects in each of our five buildings. We hope that you will continue to support all three grades of our middle school population in all of their endeavors, no matter what the venue or organization.

Sincerely,

The Relay for Life Committee