



Dear Susquenita School District Families:

As a school system, we are committed to creating and sustaining a comprehensive, coordinated effort to improve the overall safety and well-being of our students, educators and administrators. To do this, we must continue to involve community-wide programs and initiatives involving parents, teachers, administrators, local law enforcement, mental health & wellness professionals and elected officials to take meaningful action to protect our students.

**The State of Pennsylvania is therefore pleased to announce the launch of the “Safe2Say Something” anonymous reporting system.** This program, which is mandated under PA state law / Act 44, teaches students, teachers, and administrators how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and *Say Something* to a trusted adult OR use its anonymous reporting system.

Specifically, the program educates participants to:

- Recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behaviors – especially within social media
- Take every sign and signal seriously; act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult OR
- Report it anonymously through the *Safe2Say Something*, Office of the Attorney General 24/7 Crisis Center, mobile app, or website
- Respond to and manage the submitted tip via a school-based multi-disciplinary educator and administrator teams
- Sustain the curriculum and awareness via student clubs, in-school activities and call-to-action weeks

Our students often are aware of the problems their peers are facing, so we must empower them to know the danger signs and give them the tools to help each other with the assistance of trained and caring adults. As you know, most conversations are taking place on social media, therefore it is critical that we teach our students to be looking out for one another as these digital conversations are taking place. *Safe2Say Something* teaches our middle and high school students what to look for in text, video and photos while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student.

The *Safe2Say Something* PA anonymous reporting system is being provided through Sandy Hook Promise, a nationwide non-profit organization that was selected by the State of Pennsylvania. Sandy Hook Promise programs are in 50 states – with 10,000+ schools and over 5.5 million students and adults trained. They have a track record, reputation, and knowledge of how to work effectively with kids, parents, and teachers to improve school safety and culture. They also have funding to provide and sustain the program at NO COST to our School District (and all schools statewide).

**The age-appropriate and research-based program will be presented to our middle and high school students only on January 22, 2019.** (Pennsylvania has mandated that elementary school students will not be trained)

The *Safe2Say Something* program has, and will continue help stop school shootings, suicides, and gun threats; it will help reduce bullying and cyberbullying; help intervene upon cutting, drug use, racial conflicts, and other violent and victimization acts.

As always, we encourage parents and students to speak with their building administrators should they have concerns during school hours.

Sincerely,

Susquenita School District Administration