

Dear Bubbler 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 believe this must 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 Safe 2 Say Something program launched on January 14, 2019. 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 S2SS 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

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. Students in grades 7-12 will be trained in the coming weeks on how to access and use the site to report concerns they have or issues they are experiencing. There is a district team of 5 professionals who will be available 24/7 to receive these tips and act upon them. *Please remember, this reporting platform is not intended to be, or serve as, an emergency hotline or email for situations of imminent danger. If you need immediate assistance and/or are reporting an emergency or event that could immediately affect the safety of a student or the school community, please dial 911.*

We ask for your partnership in this program by talking with your children about appropriate utilization of the reporting system. While we are empowering and encouraging students to act, it is also critical that we remind students of the dangers and consequences of submitting false tips to this hotline. False tips detract attention from actual tips, which may contain life-saving information. Knowingly submitting false information will lead to criminal sanctions as allowed by law. These sanctions will be enforced by the Office of the Attorney General, not the South Middleton School District.

We also ask that you please remind your children that, at any time, they may speak to a trusted adult within the school community should they have any concerns.

Please take a few moments to review the attached brochure and familiarize yourself with the program. [Click here to access the brochure.](#)

The S2SS program is being provided through Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a nation-wide non-profit organization. SHP's programs are in 50 states – with 10,000+ schools and over 5.5 million students and adults trained. They have a record of accomplishment, reputation, and knowledge of how to work effectively with kids, parents, and teachers to improve school safety and culture. The program is age-appropriate and research-based.

Data has shown that the S2SS program has prevented school shootings, suicides, and gun threats; it has reduced bullying and cyberbullying; and helped intervene upon cutting, drug use, racial conflicts, and other violent and victimization acts.

Thank you for collaborating with us as we work to provide a safe school environment at South Middleton School District.

Zachary D. Gump
Director of Buildings, Grounds, Safety and Security
Safe2Say Contact