



January 21, 2019

Dear Hempfield Area 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 achieve 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.

**Today, I am happy to announce the launch of the “Safe2Say Something” (S2SS) 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. This program will be available after student training and will replace our current Safe Schools Hotline. Students are encouraged to use the Safe2Say Something system; however, if they have any issues, they may continue to use the Safe Schools Hotline until the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

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
- 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 occur. S2SS teaches them what to look for in text, video, and photos while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student.

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 track record, 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. They also have funding to provide and sustain the program at NO COST to our school (and all schools statewide). Over the next week, middle and high school students in the Hempfield Area School District will participate in a one-hour training with representatives from the Sandy Hook Promise. The purpose of the training is to ensure our students understand warning signs for potential issues, and know how to use the new reporting system. The S2SS system, while designed for secondary aged students, can also be utilized by parents/guardians at all levels. Parent materials, including the S2SS brochure and one-page overview are available on the district website.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa A. Maloney".

Dr. Lisa Maloney  
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