



January 28, 2019

Dear Claysburg Kimmel School District Families:

The Claysburg Kimmel School District is committed to ensuring the overall safety and well-being of our students, educators, administrators and support staff. One recent initiative was the implementation of an anonymous helpline, the *Safe Schools Helpline*, which was started last year in an effort to give students and parents the ability to report bullying and suspicious behavior anonymously.

**Today, I am happy to announce the launch of a second anonymous reporting system, the Safe2Say Something (S2SS) system.** This program, which is mandated under PA state law / Act 44, teaches students (grades 7-12), teachers, administrators and support staff 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. Over the next two weeks, students in grades 7-12 will be trained on how to use the program. 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
- 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. 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. S2SS teaches them what to look for in text, video and photos while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student.

Please double click on the link below to access a full brochure outlining the S2SS program.

[Safe2Say Parent Brochure](#)

The S2SS program is being provided through Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a nationwide 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).

It is our hope that the Safe2Say Something system along with our current anonymous helpline will encourage students and adults to act when hearing of a concerning situation, thus creating a safe and non-threatening learning environment for all.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email your building principal.

Sincerely,

*Darren J. McLaurin*

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Superintendent of Schools