



Bellefonte Area School District

318 North Allegheny Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Telephone: (814) 355-4814

Michelle Saylor Ed. D., Superintendent
Tammie Burnaford, Assistant Superintendent
Kenneth G. Bean, Jr., Director of Fiscal Affairs

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To Our 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 and staff.

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.

We also recognize the need to reach out when you witness a troubling situation or simply need someone to listen. Given this, our district has made available two anonymous reporting helplines. The first helpline, which became active at the beginning of this school year is the **Safe School Helpline**. If you see something, say something! The Safe School Helpline is a convenient, confidential way for anyone to report information about situations that might affect safety at our school. You can call the number any time of the day or night to report concerns about unsafe or potentially disruptive activities or situations including drug or alcohol abuse, weapons, harassment, bullying or threats. All calls are completely confidential. And, most importantly, if you need a real person to talk with about your situation or feelings, you may do so through this helpline.

Beginning January 14, 2019 in conjunction with the State of Pennsylvania, we will also be offering 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. (Training for student in the warning signs will begin through this system within the next few 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.

Information on each system can be found at the following sites: Safe School Helpline (<http://www.schoolhelpline.com/>) Safe2Say (<https://www.saysomething.net/>)

We anticipate that utilization of these helplines will help stop school shootings, suicides, and gun threats; using them will help reduce bullying and cyberbullying; help intervene upon cutting, drug use, racial conflicts, and other violent and victimization acts.

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

Sincerely,


Michelle Saylor, Ed.D.