

Northview Public Schools

School Safety Measures

Thank you for reading last week's communication regarding what we are doing to prevent school violence. For your reference, that message, as well as other helpful resources, have been posted to our website. Today's topic speaks to how we report information.

- April 11: What we are doing to prevent school violence (see www.nvps.net)
- April 16: How we are teaching our students to report information regarding school violence
- April 23: Improving school safety through strong community partnerships
- April 30: The "whole child" approach to school safety
- May 1: Community Safety Summit (see sidebar)

How to report information regarding school violence:

One of the key findings in the Safe School Initiative report is that incidents of school violence, particularly those that involve firearms, are not impulsive. The data show that the planning can take from 1 to 2 days up to a year, and that the individuals who carry out the acts almost always talk about their plans. They may do so on social media, through written expression like poetry or composition or in conversation with other students or peers. Seldom does a perpetrator threaten their intended victims, and rarely does the talk reach an adult.

At Northview, we embrace the power that our students possess to intervene and thwart the planning and execution of a violent incident. Our Student Responsibility Centers (SRCs) provide an open door and encourage "compassionate accountability" to address the heavy burden created for students who may overhear or be privy to disturbing comments or postings. The SRCs offer a safe space for students who may feel unsure about what to do with the information. Silent Observer is always available, and our Security Advisory Team is currently reviewing the OK2SAY tool as an additional option. Students and families can be assured that information shared about a suspected individual or planned incident will be handled professionally, confidentially and with the necessary regard for privacy of all parties involved. It is our responsibility to support both the at-risk student with appropriate intervention, as well as the student who reports a concern.

Further, it is our mission to communicate in a timely manner to our students, families and community any information that can be shared when a potential incident comes to light.

Northview's students so ably stepped up in the planning and demonstration on March 14 to honor the Parkland victims. What we observed on that day was dignified and respectful and students' interactions were infused with kindness toward each other. The event was planned and led by our students, and exemplified behavior required in future leaders of our country.

In my next message, I will share information on another critical component in our plans to keep our students safe: community partnerships. Thank you for being a concerned member of the Northview community. By working together, we can provide the safest learning environment possible -- a place where all students can feel secure and find a sense of belonging.

Community Safety Summit

May 1, 2018
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Doors open at 6 PM
Northview High School
Performing Arts Center

OBJECTIVES:

- Bring together solution-minded leaders to promote community safety
- Update parents on actions we are taking to promote safety
- Provide a townhall format for concerned parents to ask questions
- Distribute information and safety tips



4365 Hunsberger Ave., NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
(616) 363-6861
www.nvps.net