



Charlotte Valley Central School

"Empowering Students Today to Conquer the Challenges of Tomorrow"

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Dear Charlotte Valley Families:

As a school district, we are committed to creating and sustaining a comprehensive, coordinated effort to provide the best possible environment of overall safety and well-being for our students, educators, and the community at large.

Our students are often aware of the problems their peers are facing, so we must empower them to recognize 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 look out for one another as these digital conversations are taking place.

Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is a research-based violence prevention program offered by Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit organization. *Say Something* ARS teaches warning signs of potential violence and/or self-harm and provides students/staff/parents with secure ways to share safety concerns through a mobile app, website, and phone call.

I am happy to announce the district-wide launch of the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System (ARS) on February 28, 2024.

This program teaches students, teachers, and administrators how to recognize warning signals and threats, on social media, in school, or in their community, 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 students and adult participants to:

- Recognize the signs and threats of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously and act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult, OR
- Report it anonymously to the *Say Something* ARS 24/7/365 Crisis Center via a mobile app, website, or telephone hotline

How does the system work?

The *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System can be used to report threatening or harmful behavior, harassment, and more. For example, imagine that a student, Thomas, is worried about a friend, Mary, who has been cutting herself. Thomas isn't sure who he should tell and is afraid of being labeled a "snitch" or, worse, losing a friend. Thomas can anonymously report the concern through the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting app, website or through a phone call. He can even share screenshots of social media posts that he may have seen about this. Highly trained crisis counselors immediately take action to ensure Mary is safe and getting the help and support she needs.

Students and staff can submit a tip about concerning or threatening behaviors through the app, website, or a telephone call, 24/7/365. Every submission goes directly to a trained crisis counselor. The trained counselor vets the tip, gathers details, then shares the information and next steps with the school team and law enforcement (as needed). The team steps in to address the issue and provide solutions.

Using the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System is completely voluntary.

The *Say Something* ARS program is provided by Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a nation-wide non-profit organization. SHP's programs are in 50 states with over 21 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. To date, *Say Something* ARS and other SHP prevention programs have helped to improve school safety and strengthen an inclusive school culture.

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

Sincerely,



Eric C. Whipple

Superintendent

