



November 10, 2024

Dear Holly Ridge Middle School Families,

Everyone deserves to feel safe and supported while they are on our campus. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority, and we are always going to be proactive to protect our school community.

That is why I am sharing that WCPSS is launching the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System. **It is an additional option to our existing WCPSS tip line at (919) 856-1911** for anonymously reporting threats and concerns. WCPSS is rolling Say Something out across our district, and we will be training our students on when and how to use it during the week of **November 12, 2024**.

The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is a research-based violence prevention program offered by Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit organization. It teaches the warning signs of potential violence or self-harm and provides students and staff with secure ways to share safety concerns through a mobile app, website, or phone call. More than 5,000 schools nationwide are using this program.

This program will further enhance the student protections we have in place. We have included information about what the program is, how students can use it, and why we are adopting it in our schools below.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System?

It is an age-appropriate, research-informed program that trains youth and adults to recognize warning signs and threats of potential violence and to tell a trusted adult or use the anonymous reporting system via app, website, or telephone hotline. This empowers students, parents, staff, and community members to securely share safety concerns, helping school administrators and law enforcement members to prevent violence, suicide, bullying, self-harm, and other dangerous behaviors.

How does the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System work?

Students and staff can submit a tip about concerning or threatening behaviors through the app, website, or a telephone hotline, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Every submission goes directly to a trained Crisis Counselor who vets the tip, gathers details, then shares the information and next steps with our school team and law enforcement (as needed). The team steps in to address the threat and provide solutions. WCPSS has a trained Say Something response staff that includes social workers, counselors, and administrators.

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 harming herself. Thomas isn't sure who he should tell and is afraid of being labeled a "snitch" or, worse, losing his 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.

What happens to the tip if the individual reporting is threatening to hurt themselves?

The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System's National Crisis Center and local Say Something team members are specifically trained to recognize mental and emotional disturbances and effectively manage crisis situations. Depending on district protocols, psychiatric emergencies may be referred to the appropriate community mental health services. Law enforcement may conduct a welfare check.

Do I have to use the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System? Does my student?

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

Who is running this program?

The Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is offered **at no cost** to schools and districts by Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a national nonprofit that was founded and is led by family members whose loved ones were killed during the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in 2012. SHP has trained more than 18 million educators, parents, and students nationwide to recognize the warning signs of potential violence and tell a trusted adult.

What about privacy?

WCPSS has been working with our school board's legal team to ensure that all key privacy standards are maintained. All data from our school community within the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System is owned by the district.

What if I have more questions about Say Something?

You may reach out to Dr. Corliss Thompson-Drew, WCPSS Director of School Psychology, at cthompsondrew@wcpss.net.