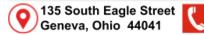


## GENEVA AREA CITY SCHOOLS BOARD of EDUCATION

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August 14, 2022

Dear Student, Parent or Guardian:

Governor Mike DeWine established the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) in August of 2019 to support schools, first responders, and communities in preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats and acts of violence, including self-harm.

A top priority of the OSSC is increasing information sharing and communication. Victimizations, bullying, and other disorders such as drug and alcohol use are often not reported directly to school authorities or even to parents and guardians. Oftentimes this is because students do not want to be identified, don't want a friend or classmate in trouble, or simply don't know how or where to report these threats. The OSSC wants to make sure students are aware of the resources available to them and know they have a safe space to share their concerns.

One available resource coordinated by the OSSC is the Safer Ohio School Tip Line, which is a free service that accepts calls and texts 24/7. The tip line allows students, parents, school administrators, and staff members to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety. The tip line number is **844-723-3764**.

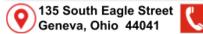
The OSSC encourages reporting on:

- Bullying and cyberbullying incidents;
- Self-harm or suicidal behaviors;
- Withdrawn student behaviors;
- Verbal or written threats observed toward students, staff, or the school itself;
- Weapons/suspicious devices on or near school grounds;
- Gang-related activities;
- Illegal drug use; and
- Unusual or suspicious behavior of students or associates.



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Another resource is the <u>Crisis Text Line</u>. By calling 988 you are connected to a trained Crisis Counselor. Any person may need help in coping with a stressful situation at times. Reach out to communicate with someone trained to listen and respond in a method that is private, secure, and confidential.

As we enter into the 2022-2023 school year, it is important to share these available resources with our students and families. We want you to know that there are resources available to you to be able to share concerns and talk to someone if you are feeling stressed.

Sincerely,

Terri Hring-Treham

Terri Hrina-Treharn, Ph.D.