

SCHOOL CLIMATE

“Creating a culture and climate of safety is essential to the prevention of violence in schools.” (United States Secret Service and United States Department of Education)

HOW CAN I HELP?

- **LISTEN** respectfully to staff and other students.
- **LISTEN** to feelings, especially those of hurt and pain.
- **NOTICE** behaviors of staff or students who may not be able to express their feelings verbally.
- **Take a strong, but caring stance against the code of silence and against bullying.**
- **SPREAD** the word that talking to an adult about a student contemplating violence is NOT snitching!
- Try to form sincere, trusting relationships. Everyone needs someone he/she can trust!

Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation alone are NOT suspicious. For that reason, people should report suspicious behavior and situations rather than beliefs, thoughts, or ideas related to these factors.

The HHS Safety and School Climate Administrator:

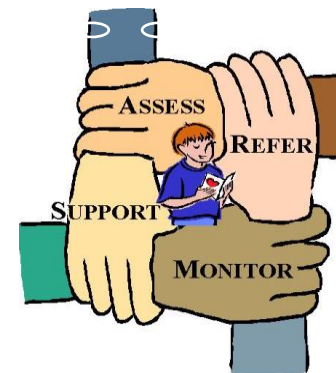
Mrs. DeCosta
203-40-2040 ext. 5030
ddecosta@hamden.org

The HHS Safety and School Climate Team:

Mr. Abate
Mr. Alexander
Mrs. Alexander
Mr. Barkon
Mr. Benway
Mrs. Budrow
Mr. Capone
Mrs. Fasulo
Mrs. Gannon
Mrs. Gentile
Mrs. Jacobson
Mr. Bunnell
Mrs. Lidzbarski
Mrs. Quigley
Mrs. Quinones
Mr. Jason
Mrs. Shugrue
Mr. Sridhar
Mr. Vermiglio

HHS

Hear – Mention – Say
at
Hamden High School



If you **HEAR**
or **SEE**
something...
SAY something.

YOUR FRIENDS.....
YOUR SCHOOL

SEE/HEAR SOMETHING? (WHAT TO LOOK FOR)

It can be difficult to know what “something suspicious” looks like ~ but trust yourself when something doesn’t feel quite right.

1. UNFAMILIAR people, cars, items:
 - On the bus
 - Inside/outside building
 - In your hallway or classroom
2. PEOPLE:
 - Acting suspiciously, using odd body language or hanging around
 - touching safety equipment (i.e. cameras)
 - entering/exiting places where they are not allowed
 - People carrying aerosol cans or anything emitting a sound, smell, or gas
 - Wearing clothing inappropriate for the weather conditions
3. STUDENTS/STAFF
 - using communications suggesting violence, threatening, hopelessness or desperation (saying or writing)
 - Trying to stay away from others or draw attention

SAY SOMETHING? (WHO TO TELL)

To whom you should express your concerns depends on the nature and seriousness of the “something”.

ADMINISTRATION:

- May be told of any concerns
- Must be told if there is immediate danger

SECURITY/ADMINISTRATION:

- Concerns regarding unfamiliar people, things, or suspicious activities in and around the school

PUPIL PERSONNEL STAFF:

- Concerns regarding students, staff, parents, or visitors making threatening statements
- Concerns regarding students or staff behaviors or communications (including electronic communications)

HHS REPORTING:

Students and parents may report safety concerns to teachers, security, social workers, guidance counselors, and/or administration.

**An anonymous reporting line is coming soon.

TAKING ACTION (HOW TO HELP)

Our best defense against potential threats to the safety of HMS includes:

- Follow all established procedures concerning safety, security, and our code of conduct (see student handbook)
- Participate fully and seriously in all preparedness drills and activities
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Go through a mental checklist of how things look, sound, and smell around you. Note changes from norm.
 - ✓ Do not touch or move any suspicious objects
 - ✓ Do not use a cell phone in the direct vicinity of suspicious objects
- Always be aware of behaviors and communications involving:
 - ✓ Injuring self or others
 - ✓ Threatening statements
 - ✓ Helplessness/Hopelessness
 - ✓ Concerning Relationships
- **SAY** anything that seems out of the ordinary