



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THOMAS SCARICE
Superintendent of Schools

110 Myrtle Avenue
Westport, Connecticut 06880
Telephone: (203) 341-1025
Fax: (203) 341-1029
tscarice@westportps.or

Parents/Guardians,

Providing our students and staff at Westport Public Schools with a safe environment is one of our top priorities. Sadly, we are all aware of incidents of gun violence and accidents in our surrounding communities, and across the nation. According to the [Journal of Public Health](#), an estimated 4.6 million children in the United States live in a home in which at least one firearm was stored both loaded and unlocked. Today, we are writing to ask for your support in keeping our community safe by ensuring firearms at home are safely stored.

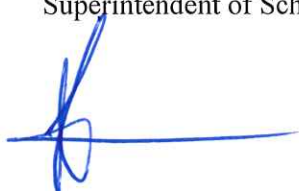
[Connecticut law](#) prohibits any person from storing or keeping a firearm on their premises under their control, unless the firearm is securely locked in a box or container in a location which a reasonable person would believe to be secure. However, firearm safety experts, including the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agency (ATF), **recommend going further and storing firearms locked and unloaded, with ammunition also locked in a secure location separate from the firearm.** This June, Connecticut will recognize the fifth anniversary of [Ethan's Law](#). This law, named after a 15-year old Connecticut resident, Ethan Song who was accidentally shot, requires all firearms to be safely stored in homes occupied by minors under 18. Safe storage of firearms is a simple yet effective way to prevent accidents, unauthorized access, theft, and misuse.

While firearm ownership may not be widespread in our community, understanding safe storage practices is of utmost importance. Everytown for Gun Safety has created [informational guides](#) to help parents discuss safe storage with both children and other parents. Over 75% of firearms used in youth suicide attempts and unintentional firearm injuries came from the residence of the victim, a relative, or a

friend. Westport Public Schools in partnership with the Westport Police Department and Students Demand Action want to keep our schools and community safe from gun violence. Please join us in actively ensuring that all firearms and ammunition in our community are safely stored and out of reach of minors. For additional information regarding the best practices and/or requirements of storing firearms please refer to the [Sandy Hook Promise Safe Storage - Sandy Hook Promise Action Fund](#) website.

Sincerely,

Thomas Scarice
Superintendent of Schools



Foti Koskinas
Westport Chief of Police

Aidan Lapatine
Co-President of Students Demand Action, Staples High School

Logan Noorily
Co-President of Students Demand Action, Staples High School