



EXPECT SUCCESS

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING



"One earnest worker can do more by personal suggestion to prevent accidents than a carload of safety signs."

Last month, following the tragic school shooting in Parkland, Florida, there was a resurgence of a safety campaign with the simple reminder that if you 'see **something, say something.**' We routinely share this concept with staff as a part of our school safety protocol; however, I think the phrase can be acted on in multiple ways to have a broader impact in our schools and for our students.

We, as curious beings, are the best observers for things out of the ordinary. Whether you call it a 'sixth sense' or a 'gut feeling', we have all seen or heard things that seem unusual, out of place or sometimes, outright concerning. **See Something, Say Something** shares the broad message to students, staff, parents and community members to reach out, speak up, or make a call when you think things aren't quite right. While the recent focus has been on school shootings, I would encourage us to look more broadly. Behaviors related to theft, domestic abuse, child abuse, drug/alcohol abuse, negligence, homelessness, and mental health often have similar patterns. It can be easy to write off an occurrence as a one-time incident or convince ourselves that we are overreacting, but the message we want to share out is that it may be worth a call to school or law enforcement. Parents can help at home by talking with your child(ren) about whom they can report to. Encouraging your child to keep a watchful eye while they are out playing or at the park is a safety conversation that many parents already have. Extending that conversation to include their school day or school friends can open up good dialogue at home. Help them identify trusted adults in your neighborhood and at school that they can go to if they have a concern.

At the School Safety Round Table meeting held on Sunday, March 4, I shared with the audience that building relationships with our students and their families is key to school safety. Why? Because students who feel connected within the school setting are more likely to seek out an adult if they are struggling emotionally, mentally or physically, or to speak up if they see or hear something. Kids need to feel like they belong. This is the second way that we can encourage each other to **See Something, Say Something**, but in a positive relationship building effort. When we see something positive, it is worth taking the time to say something. A friendly greeting, a question about their weekend, a compliment for a job well done all go a long way. Their connection may be with school staff, but it could also be with other adults they frequently see at school for concerts, plays and sporting events. Parents can help by modeling those conversations in front of your child. For young children, teaching social skills of a friendly greeting and response is important. At the older grades, encouraging kids to recognize the good in others can help them build positive relationships with their peers.

We all have an important role in creating a safe, proactive school community. Below are resource numbers to post in your home for easy access should you see suspicious activity.

REMEMBER IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Dane County Sheriff's Dept. Non-Emergency Line: 255-2345

Deerfield Elementary School: 764-5442

Deerfield Middle/High School: 764-5431