

Dear Parents,

MPVA Calendar – Check out this week’s events at MPVA [here](#). Our Homecoming game will take place on Monday at 7:00 PM as our Greyhounds take on the West Briar Grizzlies. Also, please remember that there is **NO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY** as it is a Fall Holiday for students.

Homecoming Week Theme Dress – On the following days, students will show their Homecoming spirit by participating in the following theme days if they choose.

1. Monday – Wear your best purple, grey, and/or black.
2. Tuesday – Twin Day
3. Wednesday – HOLIDAY
4. Thursday – Sports Day
5. Friday – Dress to Impress

Even on theme days, dress must be appropriate. MPVA administration reserves the right to ask students to revert back to Dress Code if attire worn is too revealing or inappropriate for a school setting.

Annual Homecoming Dance – Our Cheer sponsored Homecoming Dance will take place on Friday from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Students attending the dance MUST present a valid student ID at the door or they will not be admitted in. If a student needs to buy a new permanent ID before the Homecoming Dance, they must also have cleared their balance for temporary IDs that have been distributed to them. Finally, given the recent events at MPVA, the school’s administration is contacting parents of students who have lost the privilege to attend the Homecoming Game or Homecoming Dance. The safety of all attendees is of the utmost importance to us. We appreciate in advance the support of our MPVA community in our school taking this stance.

Sandy Hook Promise/Say Something – MPVA has joined the Sandy Hook Promise program. This allows any students or parents to make anonymous reports of anything that needs our attention. I am including a link to the website here - <https://www.saysomething.net> – and we also have it posted on our website. I also highly encourage you and your child to download the Say Something app to your phones. When you go to <https://www.saysomething.net> you will also have the option to download the Say Something app to your phone.

I have been asked a lot the last two days, “What can we do to help?” First and foremost, monitor your child’s social media and cell phone. Have them tell you what they know, then ask if they have reported this to anyone at school. The answers may surprise you. Second, we have an amazing PTO that has been looking for parent volunteers to help in the morning with student drop-offs. An increased adult presence in the mornings outside whether helping with drop off will help. If you can help, simply show up, we’ll get your name and show what you can do on any given day.

School Choice Fairs - Parents and families are able to attend school choice fairs to learn more about the magnet programs available across the district and have an opportunity to apply at the fair with guidance from the Office of School Choice Team.

Oct. 12: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Washington High School, 4204 Yale St, Houston, TX 77018

Nov. 2: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Sharpstown High School, 7504 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX 77074

Nov. 16: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Milby High School, 1601 Broadway St, Houston, TX 77012

MPVA Highlights – Coming soon, we are launching an “MPVA Highlights” bi-monthly newsletter to highlight all the amazing things that are happening within our school walls as well as beyond them. Being a comprehensive middle school that also houses the best PVA at the middle school level, there is much to be proud of and to celebrate at MPVA. We have an outstanding athletics program, our academics are rigorous and provide opportunities for students to work at accelerated levels through Pre-AP and AP programs, we have high school credit courses, different and diverse clubs that are often student driven and created, a PALS leadership class, morning and after-school enrichment programs sponsored by the PTO, and evening a Tuesday morning leadership program that is free and sponsored by the Bo and Stacy Porter SELF Foundation. Add to this our outstanding Performing & Visual Arts program and we have plenty to be proud of. Our new “MPVA Highlights” newsletter will help you better see and help us celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our shared children and help them realize they contribute to and are a part of something truly special.

Let’s make this a great week!

Auden Sarabia, Principal
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Teaching Youth and Teens How to Recognize the Signs & Signals of At-Risk Behavior and Potential Threats - Especially in Social Media

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM	<p><u>Each year in schools and communities across the USA, there are millions of youth who hurt themselves or others through verbal, physical, digital, and, at its extreme, lethal means.</u> These behaviors and actions cause those youth, and others on the receiving end of their threats, harassment and bullying, to experience emotional and physical injury/trauma, mental health or wellness issues, stress/anxiety and feelings of being unsafe. Too often the outcome results in suicide/self-harm or homicide.</p> <p>In a majority of these acts, youth and adults are witness to these threats, warning signs or signals, especially on social media, but do nothing to intervene to help the at-risk youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately, 1,000,000 students report being harassed, threatened or subject to other forms of cyberbullying each year • 80% of school shooters tell someone of their violent plans. 69% tell more than one person • 70% of people who complete suicide tell someone of their plans or give some other warning sign • 37% of threats of violence, bullying, etc. are sent electronically. 28% used social media <p>There are many reasons why youth and adults do not say something when they see a sign or signal. They do not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Understand or know how to recognize signs and signals of at-risk behavior 2) Believe a threat to be true because “they would never say it publicly if they meant it” 3) Want to be labeled, stigmatized and/or possibly physically threatened as a “snitch” 4) Know who to tell or “believe that nothing will be done to help anyhow” 5) Just ignore the sign or signal thinking someone else will say something <p>The above is best portrayed post-tragedies when statements like ... “I knew he was going to do something”, or “We read on Instagram what he wanted to do”, or “She was being bullied every day and just couldn’t take it anymore” are made and no one took the time to say something.</p>
WHAT IS THE SOLUTION	<p><u>Launch our Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS) in schools and communities to educate youth and adults on the signs and signals of at-risk behavior and create a safe, easy reporting platform.</u> The result will be safer, healthier schools and communities via interventions made BEFORE individuals hurt themselves or others. The SS-ARS curriculum and platform, delivered at NO COST, teaches students, parents and teachers/administrators to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behaviors – especially within social media • Take every sign and signal seriously; act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult <u>OR</u> • Report anonymously through SS-ARS 24/7 Crisis Center, mobile app, or website • Respond to and manage the SS-ARS via a multi-disciplinary team (teachers/admin only) • Sustain the <i>Say Something</i> curriculum in student clubs with help from our program team <p>The SS-ARS platform is managed and maintained by a national digital leader in the school safety space and 24/7 Crisis Center national compliance leader, both have 20+ years of experience. SHP will provide overall management/training. Together SHP and our partners will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 Crisis Center, app and mobile/web-based setup and ongoing management • “Backroom” training and management of submissions • 24/7 crisis center with multi-lingual operators trained in suicide and crisis management • Triage for all calls, app, mobile/web-based submissions • Routing of all tips to school officials and/or law enforcement



<p>WHAT IS THE SOLUTION</p>	<p>SS-ARS Platform</p> <p>Step 1: Submit an Anonymous Tip</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Call; or 2) Use SS website; or 3) Use Mobile App <p>Step 2: All Calls and Tips sent to 24/7 MULTI-LINGUAL CRISIS CENTER</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Crisis counselor gathers caller tip information and/or receives website and app submission(s) 2) Assess and prioritize all tips into life threatening / non-life threatening submissions 3) Forward prioritized tips to school officials and law enforcement (as needed) <p>Step 3: School Officials & Law Enforcement Intervene and Help Individual(s)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) School Officials act immediately or investigates further to intervene and protect students 2) Law Enforcement act immediately and/or provides support to school (as needed) 3) Both School and Law Enforcement report outcomes back to Say Something for accountability and ensure follow-up to each tip submitted
<p>HOW IS THE PROGRAM DELIVERED AND SUSTAINED</p>	<p>Contact programs@sandyhookpromise.org to bring SS-ARS to your school district. SS-ARS is delivered through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct trainers working hand and hand with school district and local law enforcement • Direct training students in classrooms or auditorium style via our 150+ national trainers • Train via our digital interactive training video – allowing minimal time taken away from class • For districts who qualify, we provide an SHP employee to your district to manage/maintain program in and across schools • We provide, if the school does not have one, Students Against Violence Everywhere Promise Club setup, seed money and training to sustain SS-ARS • Provide on-going support, refresher trainings and call-to-action weeks to remind students and the community of the program • SHP provides in-school awareness materials – posters, floor stickers, table tops, etc. <p>Program set-up takes 5 hours, administrator/lead manager overseeing SS-ARS training takes 3 hours, end users (teachers, counselors, in-school admin) receiving tips and student training takes 1 hour.</p>
<p>WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE</p>	<p>Parents, students, educators, administrators in middle and high schools. SHP provides 100% of training and setup at <u>no cost</u>. Additionally, we will set-up student clubs to ensure that youth are empowered to carry it forward within their schools and community.</p>
<p>WHY SS-ARS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL</p>	<p>SS-ARS will be successful because it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educates youth and adults to recognize the signs and signals • Provides a comprehensive 24/7 reporting platform • Provides a comprehensive program to sustain in schools • Has no cost – making it easy for districts/communities to on-board • Is proven – a very predictable, proven platform with 20+years experience <p>There is NO OTHER ORGANIZATION in the USA providing the level of training and sustaining. Our approach was developed based on input from leading researchers, school officials and law enforcement. And, given the incredible generosity of our donors, we are able to deliver this at no cost.</p>