

FORESTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

12 Water Street
Forestville, New York 14062

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Superintendent of Schools
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Middle/High School Principal
CHARLES A. GALLUZZO
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January 25, 2023

Dear Forestville Families,

As a school district, we are committed to creating and sustaining a comprehensive, coordinated effort to improve the overall safety and well-being of our community at large. To do this, we believe this must involve community-wide programs and initiatives involving parents, teachers, administrators, local law enforcement, mental health and wellness professionals, and elected officials to take meaningful action to protect our students.

I am pleased to announce the district-wide launch of the *Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS)* for grades 6-12. Our students are often aware of the problems their peers are facing, so we must empower them to recognize the danger signs and give them the tools to help each other with the assistance of trained and caring adults. This program teaches students, teachers, and administrators how to recognize warning signals and threats, on social media, in school, or in their community, of individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and *Say Something* to a trusted adult OR use its anonymous reporting system. Specifically, the program educates students and adult participants to:

- Recognize the signs and threats of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously and act quickly to get help by talking to a trusted adult, OR
- Report it anonymously to the SS-ARS 24/7/365 Crisis Center via a mobile app, website, or telephone hotline
- Respond to and manage the submitted tips using a tip management system overseen by a designated school team
- Sustain the curriculum and awareness via student clubs, in-school activities and call-to-action weeks

The SS-ARS program is a nation-wide non-profit organization that has a track record, reputation, and knowledge of how to work effectively with kids, parents, and teachers to improve school safety and culture. The program is age-appropriate and research-based. To date, SS-ARS has helped stop multiple school shootings, suicides, and gun threats. The program has reduced bullying and cyberbullying, intervened upon cutting, drug use, and other violent acts. We know this program will do the same for our District. On Friday February 3rd, our 6-12 grade students will attend a session on how to appropriately use the reporting system. Additional information can be found at www.forestville.com under the Announcements section.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call, or email me directly.

Sincerely,

John O'Connor, Ed.D.
jocconnor@forestville.com

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