

# IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION



Dear Parents, Guardians and Host Parents,

The safety and well-being of our students, staff and faculty continues to be a top priority at New Covenant Christian School. This letter is to inform you about a new safety program being launched April 1<sup>st</sup> called “Safe2Say Something” (S2SS). S2SS is an anonymous reporting system that was mandated by the Act 44 (passed in October 2018) for the entire state of Pennsylvania to establish within all school districts and non-public schools.

The S2SS program and curriculum is managed by the PA Office of Attorney General (OAG) through a partnership with Sandy Hook Promise, a national non-profit organization working to improve school safety, which has the funding to provide and sustain this program at NO COST to any school statewide. The S2SS system officially became “live” on January 14<sup>th</sup>; however, each school was permitted to select its own launch date. This system has OAG analysts ready to receive, triage and forward tips to 911 and law enforcement dispatch teams, as well as school team members that will be on-call 24/7.

The past several months, NCCS team members have been attending trainings, meeting with law enforcement and emergency responders, and preparing to roll out training for this program to our Staff and Faculty, students, and parents. This program is age-appropriate and research-based. The training is designed so that we become more aware in recognizing the warning signs and signals (especially via social media), take these seriously, and act quickly regarding those individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others, or are in a situation of being harmed by someone else. It is anticipated that this state-wide system will help stop school shootings, suicides and gun threats; reduce bullying and cyberbullying; help intervene upon cutting, drug use, racial conflicts, and other acts of violence and victimization.

Often youths are aware of problems their peers are facing, so we must empower them to know the danger signs and give them the tools to help each other with the assistance of trained and caring adults. As you know, most communications are taking place on social media; therefore, it is critical that we teach our students to be looking out for one another as these digital conversations are taking place. S2SS teaches them what to look for in texts, videos and photos, while empowering them to act quickly to help a fellow student. This school safety tool is for our school personnel, students, parents, and our communities to submit anonymous tips using the “Safe2Say Something” app, hotline number (1-844-SAF2SAY or 1-844-723-2729) or website ([www.safe2saypa.org](http://www.safe2saypa.org)).

Staff and faculty are being trained this week, and your MS/HS child(ren) will be trained next week, April 1-5. It is now your turn. First, please read the attached brochure and program overview of the “Safe2Say Something” program. Next, please go to the website ([www.safe2saypa.org](http://www.safe2saypa.org)) and review the following information as outlined. Please take the necessary time to become trained so that you are in stride with us on this very important topic.

1. Read and review the Home Page and the video clip provided by the OAG.
2. Go back to the top of the Home Page, select and read “What is Safe2Say Something?”
3. Go back to the top of the Home Page, select and read “For Parents & Educators.”
4. Go back to the top of the Home Page, select and read “Frequently Asked Questions.”
  - Several are more technical answers in reply to schools’ internal crisis teams’ questions, but others are applicable to everyone.
  - Do you have an unanswered question? You can search a key word or a question or click on a link to directly email the OAG Safe2Say Team.
5. If you go back to the top of the Home Page, you will also see links for all three ways in which to submit a tip:
  - Download the app on your phone
  - Submit a tip using a computer via the website
  - Call the hotline number (consider entering this number as a new contact on your cell phone)

**Although this program is very comprehensive, it is very simple:**

- 1. It does not replace the 9-1-1 system;**
- 2. Anyone (not just youths) can use this system;**
- 3. This reporting system has a proven track record, works well and has saved lives!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me directly at (717) 274-2423, Ext. 204, or [ghill@nccspa.org](mailto:ghill@nccspa.org). Thank you for your support of this program to enhance the safety and security of our students and our school!

Blessings,

*Gale Hill  
Health Room, Safety & Security,  
and Marketing Coordinator*

452 Ebenezer Road, Lebanon, PA 17046  
**(717) 274-2423, Ext. 204**  
[ghill@nccspa.org](mailto:ghill@nccspa.org)