

'See something, say something'

District encourages students, community to report suspicious activity

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has developed the "See Something, Say Something" campaign to call people to take action to help protect their community, and the Morton School District is asking the Morton community, students, staff, and parents to join in.

The safety of the Morton School District students and staff, as well as our community, is of the utmost importance. We know that prevention is always better than the need to react to a potentially tragic event. By being alert and reporting suspicious activity, you can protect your family, neighbors, and our community. To that end, we would like to clarify the process for students and parents regarding how to notify school personnel when a threat or something concerning is seen or heard.

What should I do if I see or hear about something that concerns me about school or student safety?

If you see or hear something suspicious or concerning, please contact the proper authorities immediately. During the school day, Morton District 709 parents and students can report things to a teacher, school administrator, school resource officer, or any other trusted member of the school staff. Outside of school hours, a concern should be reported immediately to the Morton Police Department (266-6666).

If you are uncomfortable making personal contact in these ways, you can report the information by filling out the "Hotline" form located under the student tab on each of the schools' websites or under the parent tab of the Morton709.org website. The form will

soon be available on all District 709 homepages in the red bar that holds the Powerschool icon at the bottom of the screen.

What should I say when I am reporting a concern?

Regardless of the reporting method that you use, it is important to communicate the "the 5 W's":

- ▶ When the activity took place
- ▶ Where the activity took place
- ▶ Who was involved or at the scene
- ▶ What was heard or what occurred
- ▶ Why you feel the activity is suspicious

What happens after I report a concern?

After you provide the very important information to the police or school district, you may be contacted to get more information about what you saw or heard that may help with an investigation. The school district and police will use your information to begin a process to assess the threat so that we can take quick and deliberate action to prevent it. (See the flow chart.) However, due to potential security concerns and student confidentiality issues, you may not always hear about the specifics of the resolution or how the threat was neutralized.

We know that many school threats have been thwarted and tragedies have been prevented due to students, parents, and community members reporting concerns as soon as they become aware of them. Morton District 709 appreciates your willingness to do your part to keep our school community as safe as possible.

So, when you see something, say something.

Threat Assessment Flow Chart

The process Morton School District follows in response to a potential threat

