

Falconer Central School District

2 East Avenue N., Falconer, NY 14733

Phone: (716) 665-6624

Fax: (716) 665-9265

Superintendent: Stephen Penhollow

Director of Curriculum & Instruction and

District Data Coordinator: Judith Roach



Falconer High School Principal: Jeffrey Jordan

Falconer Middle School Principal: Terry English

Harvey C. Fenner Elementary Principal: Gary Gilbert

Paul B.D. Temple Elementary Principal: Holly Hannon

Director of Special Education: Julie Widen

STEAM Coordinator: Mary Plumb

January 10, 2023

Dear Falconer Families:

We are committed to creating and sustaining a comprehensive, coordinated effort to improve the overall safety and well-being of our students and adults. Doing this effectively requires a proactive approach with programs that equip students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

Our students are aware of the problems and struggles that their peers are facing on a day-to-day basis. We must empower them to know the signs of potential danger and give them the tools to help each other with the assistance of trained and caring adults. As you know, most conversations are taking place on social media, therefore it is critical that we teach our students to look out for one another in text, video, and photos and act quickly to help a fellow student.

We are happy to announce the launch of the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System in our district (grades 6-12) beginning on January 20, 2023.

The *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System trains youth and adults how to recognize warning signs -- especially within social media -- of individuals who may be in crisis, and to tell a trusted adult directly or via the anonymous reporting system.

Specifically, the *Say Something* program educates participants to:

- Recognize the warning signs of someone who may be at risk of harming themselves or others
- Take every warning sign and threat seriously; act immediately to get help by talking to a trusted adult OR reporting it through the telephone hotline, mobile app, or website that is available 24/7/365

The *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System program is provided at no cost by Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), a national nonprofit organization. More than 14 million people have participated in their research-based "Know the Signs" programs that include *Say Something*. They have a proven track record of working effectively with kids, parents, and teachers to improve school safety and strengthen an inclusive school culture. The program is age-appropriate and evidence-informed. To date, the *Say Something* Anonymous Reporting System and other SHP prevention programs have stopped multiple school shootings, suicides, and gun threats, as well as reduced other acts of violence and victimization like bullying/cyberbullying and helped thwart cutting, drug use, and more.

If you have questions or concerns, please call or email me at spenhollow@falconerschools.org or 716-665-6624.

Sincerely,


Stephen Penhollow

Superintendent