



School District of Spring Valley

Home of the Cardinals

October 24, 2018

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Dear Spring Valley Middle-High School Parent/Guardian,

We are excited to inform you that our school has enrolled with STOPit.

STOPit is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors, including safety issues. STOPit consist of a free app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has three simple but powerful features. Students will also have access through a link on all school computers. The Report function allows students to anonymously report issues. The Messenger function allows two-way anonymous conversation between our school staff and the student. The Notification function allows school administration to send mass text communications to all students, much like Skylert does for parents. Our STOPit account is unique to our school and does not intermingle with other schools' information.

Our middle school students have been instructed to get parent permission before adding the app to their personal devices. We have provided information to students during an all-school assembly and in their WIN homebase study halls and middle school advisory.

As educators, we know how important it is for our students to stand up for themselves and others. Our intent with this app is not for it to replace how students currently report such incidents. We believe the best way for students to advocate for themselves and others is to report incidents to a trusted adult, rather than do it anonymously. However, we certainly understand there may be situations where an anonymous report may be necessary. This app allows us to provide students another tool to insure that reportable incidents are addressed.

It is still greatly preferred that students use our usual reporting options: (1) Report directly to a trusted staff member or adult, or (2) Email Mrs. Cipriano, Mr. M. Ducklow, or Mrs. Bauer, depending on the issue. STOPit is a third option for reporting serious school issues and should be used only when the other two options are not possible. Serious school issues are those in which someone's safety is at risk, in which someone's behavior puts others at risk, or in which someone is doing something illegal (in school or school-related). Small issues, including "mean" behavior, are most

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effectively handled by the nearest adult. **Parents and adult community members should always use the first two options for reporting.** STOPit is intended to keep students anonymous when reporting.

All reports should be submitted in good faith. False reports are unacceptable and put people at risk by diverting staff time and resources that could be focused on real issues. Anyone submitting an intentional false report could face school discipline or police follow up. While STOPit does protect the reporter's anonymity, other information sources may provide a way to identify a false report. Individuals can be blocked from the app for nuisance reporting.

No student information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a student voluntarily includes it within the content of a report or message.

Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the [Student Privacy Pledge](#), spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association. You may review STOPit's [Privacy Policy](#) for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

More information and resources can be found online at stopitsolutions.com. I have also included a copy of the letter that was emailed to students this week.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Cipriano
Principal