

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL CORPORATION

P.O. Box 510 1502 N. Section Street, Sullivan, Indiana 47882

Phone: 812-268-6311

Fax: 812-268-6312



CHRIS STITZLE, Superintendent
JON STUCKEY, Assistant Superintendent, Trans. Dir.
MICHELE HAZELRIGG, Treasurer-Bookkeeper
TRACY VANDERGRUFF, Payroll Clerk, Personnel
BECKY SCOTT, Administrative Assistant
BRIAN IRWIN, Technology Director

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
MITZIE BADGER
JON BOBBITT
GRANT BRYANT
BARBARA ROTRAMEL
JERRY D. WILSON

December 19, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In 2017, Senate Bill 355 (also known as Erin's Law) passed in the state of Indiana. This law requires our school corporation to use age-appropriate material to educate our students in grades K-12 on the importance of body safety, recognizing signs of abuse, and how to report any concerns they may have. Southwest School Corporation, in partnership with Susie's Place (a child advocacy center located in Terre Haute), has selected the Monique Burr Foundation Child Safety Matters/Teen Safety Matters curriculum to fulfill this state requirement.

The MBF Child Safety Matters program teaches children to spot and respond to bullying, cyberbullying, child abuse, and digital dangers. This curriculum is comprised of 4 weeks of lessons at the elementary level and 6 weeks of lessons at the middle school level. The high school curriculum is pending at this time, but is expected to be available by Spring 2019. Counselors will be presenting this curriculum to students beginning in January 2019.

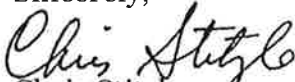
- K-5 Sullivan Elementary School - January 2019
- 6-8 Sullivan Middle School - January/February 2019
- K-8 Carlisle Elementary/Middle School - January/February 2019

You can learn more about this curriculum at www.mbfpreventioneducation.org or by downloading the "Child Safety Matters" app from the App Store or Google Play Store. Additional information is attached. **If you have questions or concerns about the program please plan to attend one of the scheduled K-8 parent meetings.**

Monday, January 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the SMS multipurpose room
Friday, January 11, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at Carlisle Elementary/Middle School

High school parents, more information to come in the Spring.

Sincerely,


Chris Stitzle



Safety Connection: Parent Presentation Invitation

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please join us! We will be giving a brief presentation about the *MBF Child Safety Matters*® program that will soon be implemented in our school. The *MBF Child Safety Matters* program teaches children to spot and respond to bullying, cyberbullying, child abuse, and digital dangers.

- » **Why do we need this program – is there a problem in our school?** There is not a specific problem in our school. However, the problems addressed in the curriculum, like bullying and abuse, exist in most schools. The goal is to prevent these problems before they happen.
- » **What exactly is covered in the curriculum?** *MBF Child Safety Matters* covers personal safety, bullying, cyberbullying, all types of child abuse, digital abuse, and other digital dangers. It is designed for elementary-aged children and based on the latest research. The curriculum focuses on teaching children to use 5 Safety Rules and Safe Adults to help them be safe.
- » **How are parents involved?** Parent involvement is key to the success of this program. Each lesson in the program includes materials to read and activities for parents to do with their children. In our presentation, we will discuss how parents are involved before, during, and after each lesson.
- » **Why do schools need to be involved in a prevention program?** Research shows, and our school agrees, that everyone benefits when children are safe. Children who are safe have higher grades in school, have better attendance, and enjoy healthier, happier, and more productive lives.

To learn more about the program, please visit www.mbfpreventioneducation.org.

We hope you will join us for this safety presentation to learn why our school is committed to child safety and to the *MBF Child Safety Matters* program. We look forward to answering your questions.

Every child deserves to be safe!

Parent Presentation

Date Monday, Jan. 7, 2019 Time 5pm-6pm
Location SMS Multipurpose Room
RSVP to Friday, Jan 11, 2019 3pm-4pm
Notes Carlisle Elementary/Middle



Safety Connection: Parent Welcome & Opt-Out Form

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This year your child's school will be using the *MBF Child Safety Matters*® program (the Program) from the Monique Burr Foundation for Children. The goal of the Program is to help keep your child safe.

The Program empowers children to spot and respond to bullying, cyberbullying, child abuse, and digital dangers. Most importantly, it teaches that adults are responsible for children's safety. The Program is based on the latest research. It has been reviewed and endorsed by national experts.

Why does your child need a safety program?

- » 10% of children are abused before their 18th birthday
- » 14% of children have been solicited online
- » 28% of students have been bullied
- » 90% of children between 8 and 16 years have viewed explicit material online

The Program teaches about these dangers by:

- » using child-friendly language.
- » playing fun games and activities.
- » providing take-home items to remind children of the lessons.

Although the Program is designed to help your child, we all benefit when children are safe. Children perform better in school and enjoy healthier, happier, and safer lives.

You can learn more about the Program at www.mbfpreventioneducation.org. You can also download the "Child Safety Matters" app at no cost from the App Store or Google Play.

IF YOU "DO NOT" WANT YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND CUT & RETURN THE FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.

The Program provides students with important information about dangers they may face. If you do not want your child to participate, then please educate them using another program. Please contact your child's school with any concerns before opting them out of the program.

I understand returning this form means **I DO NOT WANT MY CHILD TO PARTICIPATE** in the *MBF Child Safety Matters*® lessons. I UNDERSTAND THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE THE IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION contained in the program.

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Reason for declining program _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number _____