Responding to Kids Who Are Thinking of Self-Harm or in Crisis
After School Hours

Did your child report something they saw on social media? Did they say something in the car to you on the way home from school? When you are aware that a child may want to hurt themselves or in an unsafe situation and needs support, it is important to respond immediately. There are several ways to reach out especially when you are hearing the information first-hand on the weekend, after or before school hours. When you are aware of information pertaining to a child’s safety, using one of the steps listed below will help. As a member of our school community, your teamwork is appreciated by the school and can also greatly benefit the child’s overall well-being.

Here are some steps in deciding how you should respond to a child who may need support:

1) If you feel the child is in immediate danger, please call 911.

2) If you are not sure if the child is at risk of self-harm or suicide but would like to make a report, start with the child’s parent first, if possible. If you are unsure, please contact We Tip at www.wetip.com or 1-800-78-CRIME. They have available personnel who may best direct you to the resources you need.

3) After you have completed Steps 1 and/or 2, if you think this child’s situation may impact their school day, you may also contact the school’s administrative and counseling team to inform them of what you learned and to whom it was reported.

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4) Talk to your own child about your decision-making process and why you have decided to reach out for help. Your child will learn so much about the importance of reaching out in times of need.