

School Messaging During CAP Month

Messages for adults: (Note: Use your own discretion about which statements are appropriate for the target audience.)

- With Child Abuse Prevention Month and throughout the year, all adults should work to ensure that every child has the equal opportunity to grow and develop.
- Families can be strengthened when they have knowledge of healthy parenting, strong social connections and easy access to concrete supports as needed.
- Children are our future but abuse can rob them of that future.
- All adults should listen and believe any child who shares information about alleged abuse or inappropriate behavior.
- Professional school personnel are mandatory reporters as written in the State of Michigan Child Protection Law (Section 3, 1[c]).
- If you suspect child abuse call 855-444-3911.

Messages for children: (Note: Use your own discretion about which statements are appropriate for the developmental level of the student audience.)

- It's always OK to talk to a trusted adult if you think you may have been abused.
- It's never OK for someone (stranger or a person you know) to touch you in a private part of your body or in any way that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- It's never your fault if someone has touched you in a private part of your body in any way that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- It's never OK for another person (adult or child) to act in such a way as to deliberately bruise your body. It's never your fault if someone hurts you in any way.
- Never identify yourself to a stranger on a computer website or social network site.
- Go with friends or adults when walking to and from school. Don't be alone.
- Never approach, take anything from or go anywhere with strangers or anyone who makes you feel uncomfortable.
- It's never OK for people to call you names that make you feel bad.
- Don't take part when friends are making fun of or criticizing other kids. Let your friends know that what they are doing is wrong.
- Bullying someone else will never make you feel good about yourself.
- If you can't tell your friends that their bullying is wrong then go to a trusted adult and speak to that person about what is happening.