

Safe Schools Forum

presented by

the **Westwood Public Schools and Education 411**

March 11, 2008

7:30 – 9:00

WHS Little Theatre

Westwood Approach to Safe Schools

- School district/town first-responders collaboration
- Critical Incident Management Plans built on military model
- Consistent protocols for all schools
- Incident Management Teams for all schools
- Connect-Ed

Protocols and Drills

- Fire Drills
- Lockdown/Shelter in Place
- Bus Safety
- Ongoing review and case study discussions by IMT's in each building

Day-to-Day Security

- Doors locked to limit building access
- Camera and buzzer systems in most schools
- Sign-in and ID badges

School Climate

Resources at all school levels

- Staff commitment to know *each* student
- Child Study Teams
- District Behavior Specialist
- Partnership with Westwood Youth and Family Services
- School Resource Officer
- DA's Round Table group
- Risk Assessment training for School Psychologists

Elementary Schools

- Open Circle Curriculum
- Body Safety Theater
- Need-based groups with the School Psychologist
- Close supervision of students on the playground and cafeteria
- Seize teachable moments to help children develop social and negotiating skills

Thurston Middle School

- Grade-level/team education and outreach
 - *Running Start* program
 - Grade 6 Drama/Guidance collaboration
 - Grade 7 & 8 Health classes
 - Grade 8 Diversity Week, Peer Leadership, HOV
 - Team intervention for individual students
- Guidance outreach and intervention
- Guest speakers (e.g., Marc Brown)
- “Thurston Thursdays” offered on-site by WYFS

High School

- Guidance Department (9th grade seminars)
- Faculty Advisor Program
- Peer Mediators
- ADL *World of Difference/Unity/Gay-Straight Alliance/Westwood Ambassadors*
- Wellness curriculum
- Flex Program
- Other programming (e.g. Recent *Bang, Bang, You're Dead* performance and discussion, book discussion on *Nineteen Minutes*)

Communication

- Critical element for school safety
- Connect-Ed
- Home-school connection
- Help children identify adults they can go to for support