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Assistant Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent

November 1, 2022

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RE: Endorsement of the Crimestoppers Safe School App

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the Superintendent for the St. Tammany Parish School Board. The St. Tammany Parish School System has worked closely with the Crimestoppers hotline, the Safe School's Louisiana Anonymous App, and the Safe Schools Program for over 15 years to help protect the students of St. Tammany Parish. The Crimestoppers Hotline and the Crimestoppers Safe School App have provided thousands of tips over the years, giving our school system an opportunity to investigate and intervene in everything from bullying to social media threats. The ability of our students, parents, or community members to call or submit a tip to Crimestoppers anonymously has created a safe means to alert the school system and school administration of incidents without fear of retaliation.

The St. Tammany Parish School System's partnership with Crimestoppers has made our schools and our community much safer. Crimestoppers has been diligent in providing our eight high schools and thirteen junior high schools with presentations and updates. The presentations have created a culture for our students to contact Crimestoppers via the App when they hear or see something that could cause harm to them, a friend, a classmate or to their school. The annual presentations give our students an outstanding explanation of how to use the App, as well as when to use it. The presentations are very educational and informative, as evidenced by an increase in the number of tips sent to the App after a presentation.

The Safe School App allows students to submit in a tip as soon as they see it, which gives schools an opportunity to investigate in real time. The App also provides an opportunity for students to text in tips after school hours.

The App provides the school district an opportunity to investigate and use protocols to maintain the safety of our students during school and after school hours. Many times, students will post threats on social media after school hours involving group fights, weapons, suicide, and school shootings. These tips are considered emergency tips.

Anytime there is an emergency tip, the Crimestoppers call center will contact one of four central office administrators to alert them to the possible threat. The central office administrator will notify the principal of the school, as well as law enforcement if necessary. If the emergency tip concerns a threat made towards a student or a school after hours and involves a weapon, then law enforcement is called. If an emergency tip concerns a threat of suicide, then the central office administrator will notify the principal of the school the student attends. The principal will contact the parents of the student to alert them of the possible threat. If the principal cannot contact the parents of the student, then law enforcement is called to do a welfare check on the student. These

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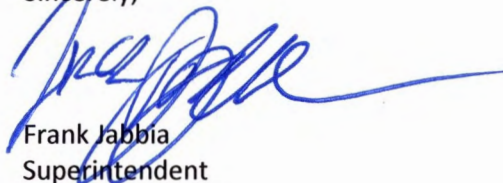
protocols are in place twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Without the App, the school system would not know of any possible threats involving weapons or suicide.

You cannot measure what the App has prevented over the last 15 years, but there have been many. Some of our most notable cases have been the prevention of self-harm and deterring criminal activity toward our schools.

The hard work and dedication provided by Darlene Cusanza and her Crimestoppers team has been exceptional in providing the Crimestoppers Safe School App to the St. Tammany Parish School System. It has been an extremely valuable tool in maintaining a safe learning environment for all students of the St. Tammany Parish School System.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Jabbia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank Jabbia
Superintendent