Schools and Parents Must Work Together To Prevent Violence

Recent tragedies have made schools aware of the need to pay special attention to school safety. But the best school safety efforts involve parents and schools working together. Here are some things you can do to help prevent school violence:

- **Stop thinking that "It can’t happen here."** School violence may happen in the smallest town.
- **Get the facts.** According to the National School Safety Center students are twice as likely to be victims of violence away from school as in school. In fact, kids face less than one chance in a million of being killed at school.
- **If your child talks about a school bully,** pay attention. The "typical" school violence problem is more likely to involve a bully than a gun. If you suspect your child is the bully, talk to the teacher to see what you can do to correct your child’s behavior.
- **Supervise your children.** Know where they are and what they’re doing.
- **If you have guns in your home,** lock them up. Keep ammunition in a separate place, locked with a separate key.
- **Talk with your children about their fears and worries,** as well as their hopes and dreams.
- **Get involved.** If your child reports trouble in the lunchroom, organize a group of parents who will take turns supervising. Get a group of parents to watch kids. If many children in your community walk to school, see if you can work with the police department to create "Safe Homes"—places where kids can go if they feel their safety is threatened.

Source: NSSC Review of School Safety, National School Safety Center,  

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