NO AWARENESS, NO SAFETY
KNOW AWARENESS, KNOW SAFETY!

THE 3 R’S TO A HEALTHY AND SAFE SCHOOL
ACTIVE LISTENING IS NOTHING WITHOUT ACTIVE LOOKING
Minutes before he started shooting, Luke Woodham gave this message to a friend.
Pearl High School, Pearl, MS Oct. 1997

- "I am not insane, I am angry. I killed because people like me are mistreated every day. I did this to show society, push us and we will push back. ... All throughout my life, I was ridiculed, always beaten, always hated. Can you, society, truly blame me for what I do? Yes, you will. ... It was not a cry for attention, it was not a cry for help. It was a scream in sheer agony saying that if you can't pry your eyes open, if I can't do it through pacifism, if I can't show you through the displaying of intelligence, then I will do it with a bullet."

- Killed 2 students/wounded 7 others
- “Life has wronged me sir”
THE 3 R’S OF CREATING A SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

RECOGNITION

• Acknowledgment of something's existence, validity, or legality.
  – 2004 Gallup Poll survey states positive recognition once every 7 days builds loyalty!
  – Not just a hello, but a sincere interaction at least 3 times a week
  – Reach out to students who seem ostracized by other students
    • Pick one student for this challenge
    • Push yourself and make it a student that you really don’t seem to like that much
    • Nearly half of shooters in the USSS Mass Attacks in Public Spaces – 2017 report were motivated by “personal grievance”
  – Inquire about their lives!
    • Over three quarters of the shooters in the USSS Mass Attacks in Public Spaces – 2017 report made “concerning communications and/or elicited concern from others prior to carrying out their attacks”.
    • We can’t discover these emotions without communicating!
RAPPORT

• A close and harmonious relationship in which the people or groups concerned understand each other's feelings or ideas and communicate well
  – Learn about their lives/goals
  – Educate them about school safety
    • Students are the highest fatality rate in school shootings. Why are we not teaching them the warning signs of a school shooter? USSS DOE Study
  – How to be threat reporters and not threat assessors
    • Why reporting shows you care about someone and why it's not snitching
    • Santana High School Shooter
  – Build trust!
RESPECT

• A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.
  – After 4 weeks of reaching out self evaluate the climate on your bus versus when you started!
  – Is the student more approachable by you and to you?
  – Trying to earn respect without providing empathy is like trying to grow a plant without water. Over time, it will eventually wither away and die.
• KiVa (Finnish for “Kiusamista vastaan” which means “against bullying”).
  – Kiva means “nice”
  – One of the world’s most effective anti-bullying programs according to the lead author of the study and professor of psychology at UCLA (out of 53 programs analyzed)
  – The study was of more than 7,000 students in 77 elementary schools in Finland
  – Showed improved mental health for sixth graders who experienced the most bullying
    • Significantly improved their self-esteem and reduced their depression
  – The study is published online in the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology.
• The Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines is an evidence-based model for schools to use in conducting threat assessments of students.

• Evidence-based program listed with the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

• The threat assessment manual, Guidelines for Responding to Student Threats of Violence, is no longer available from the original publisher (Sopris), but new copies are now available from Amazon.com

• Provides schools with a safe, structured, and efficient way to respond to student threats of violence

• Documented effectiveness in field tests and controlled studies

• Study shows lower rates of suspension and racial disparities in suspensions in schools using their model

• Reduces long-term suspensions and bullying, an alternative to zero tolerance that keeps students in school

• Used in more than 3,000 schools in 18 states

• CONTACT

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO OUR NATION’S STUDENTS, PARENTS AND SCHOOLS!

• According to a report by the National Institute of Mental Health, 18.5% of adults and 20% of children have or at some point had a debilitating mental health condition.
  – We need more professionals in this field than ever before especially in our nation’s schools

• We touch so many lives over time that even we sometimes forget how we impacted others
  – My last mental health call before retirement
  – Be careful not lost sight of your successes because we lost some of our clients
  – Learn from each student encounter and never stop continuously improving your methodology

• “You have power over your mind, not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength”.
  – Marcus Aurelius
“I used to think the worst thing in life was to end up all alone, it’s not. The worst thing in life is to end up with people that make you feel all alone.”

Robin Williams