



Dear **Sharon Elementary School** Families,

see it. text it.

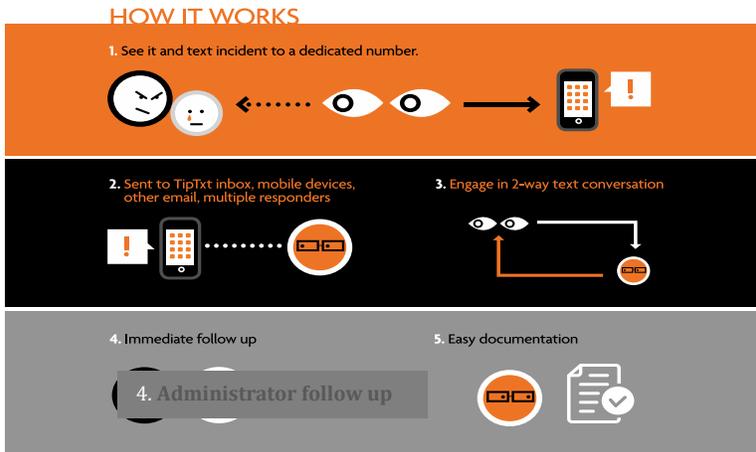
Blackboard connect.
T!PTXT)

We're pleased to introduce TipTxt – an easy, confidential tool that uses two-way texting to report incidents or suspicious activity related to bullying or anything that may impact the safety of our students and school community. The system is operated by notifications provider Blackboard Connect. Using TipTxt, students (or anyone) can contact school officials about issues confidentially with no fear of retaliation or embarrassment that they might feel talking to us in person.

What To Do:

Program this number into family cell phones now: **812-641-1518**

When reporting a tip, text **KEYWORD: SES** and follow with your message. It is **CRITICAL** that you include the keyword at the beginning of your message.



IMPORTANT NOTES:

- ✓ TipTxt is **not** a replacement for emergency services and will be monitored weekdays during regular school hours **If someone is in immediate danger or if a matter is an emergency, call 911.**
- ✓ **Talk with your child** and tell them that by using TipTxt, they can do something to help if they witness (or experience) a bullying incident, suspicious or criminal activity, or if they simply need to talk to someone about a stressful issue that affects their ability to concentrate at school.
- ✓ TipTxt is an enhancement to our existing policies and procedures already in effect for anti-bully efforts, safety and security reporting.
- ✓ **Our closed cell phone policy remains in place. Students with cell phones can access TipTxt before and after school ONLY.** Parents, staff and community members can also report tips. Posters and instruction about how and when to use TipTxt will be shared with students at school.
- ✓ Your cell phone provider's standard message and data rates apply for text messaging.

If you have questions about this new service, please contact **Mrs. Bruggenschmidt at 812-853-3349** Thank you for your support!