

Safe Passage SPOTLIGHT



Welcome to the Safe Passage Spotlight!



This newsletter serves to highlight all of the amazing things that have been and are happening through Safe Passage! Safe Passage is a violence prevention program that is rooted in treating the disease of violence through a collaboration between Operation Better Block, the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and BUHL . Using a public health approach, our goal is to reduce the transmission of the disease of violence among Pittsburgh Public Schools students and their communities.

Originally piloted at Perry High in 2021, the program is now also being implemented at Allderdice High, Arlington PreK-8, Brashear High, Milliones UPrep 6-12, Obama Academy 6-12, and Westinghouse High. This is done through training Safe Passage Coordinators, Youth Safety Ambassadors (SAs), and Community Stakeholders with the Safe Passage Safety Model. Collectively, they serve as violence interrupters and identify at-risk youth to help them join the peace-keeping solution. School communities are also connected to important resources ranging from financial support to job searches.

FEATURED SPOTLIGHTS



PROGRAM OVERVIEW (2)



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Program Overview

WHO?

92 SAFETY AMBASSADORS

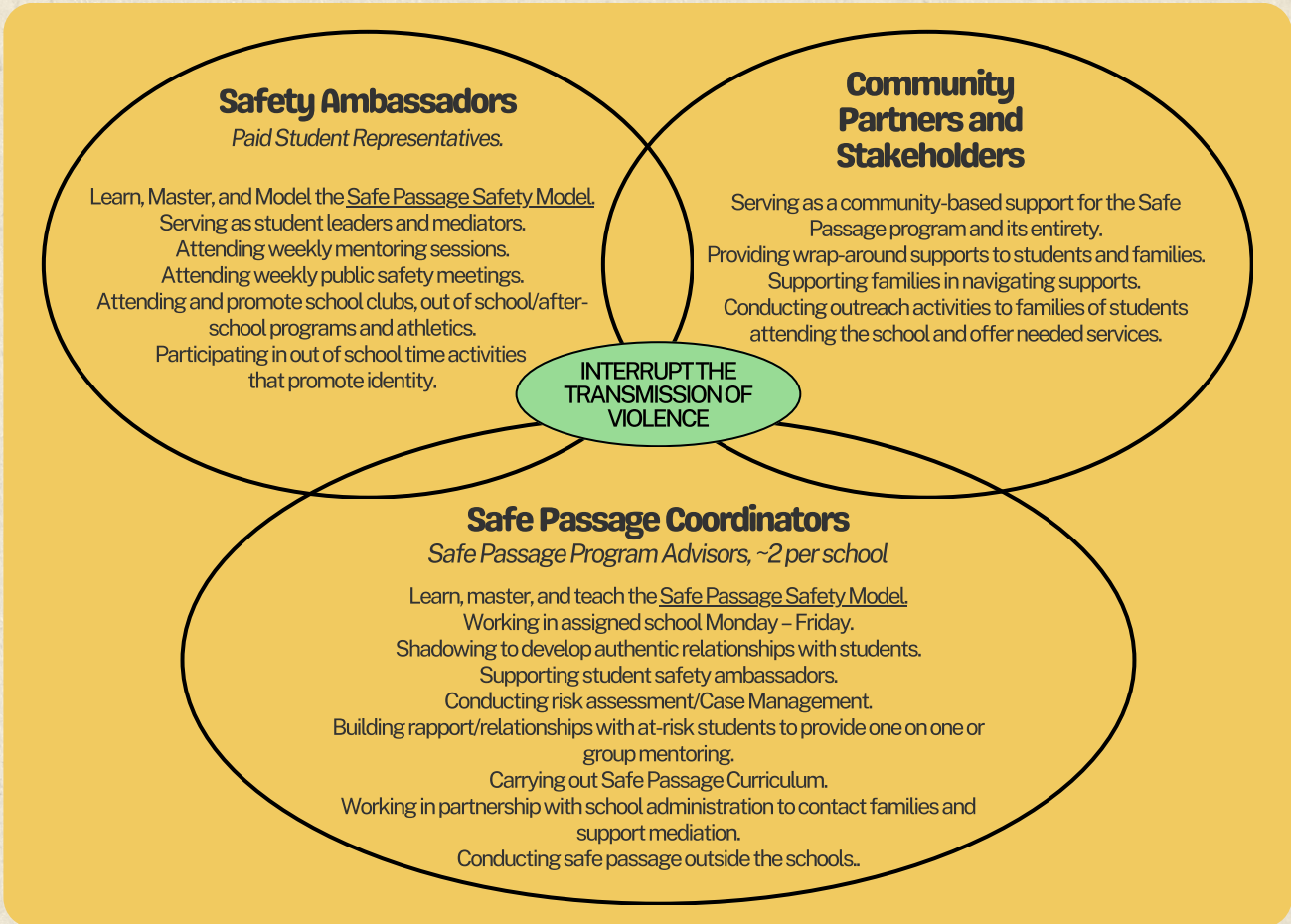
16 SAFE PASSAGE COORDINATORS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WHAT:

Eliminate the transmission of the disease of violence.

HOW?

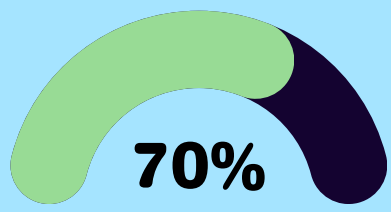


WHY?

Direct Outcomes	Indirect Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interrupt the transmission and eliminate the disease of violence. Reduction in suspensions & discipline referrals. Reduction in fighting. Reduction in hallway loitering, tardiness, and absenteeism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased student attendance. Increased GPA's. Increased positive perception of school safety. Increase in referrals to support agencies.

EARLY RESULTS SHOW

A Decrease in Discipline Referrals for Safety Ambassadors by:



Safe Passage Scoop



Paint with Charly Palmer

On Friday, April 5, Student Safety Ambassadors, Safe Passage Coordinators and other Pittsburgh Public School students from all 8 schools attended the Paint with Charly Palmer Program.

During the program, students toured the August Wilson House to view the “Voices Come and Gone” exhibit of the renowned artist, Charly Palmer. Following this memorable tour, students traveled to FashionAFRICANA Studios to create paintings of their own with Charly Palmer himself!

This experience allowed students to not only learn about and engage with the arts but express their own creativity and emotions under professional guidance.

Special thanks to Charly Palmer, the August Wilson House, and FashionAFRICANA Studios for your support. we appreciate you!



Program Data Review and Safety Ambassador Panel

Pittsburgh Public Schools headquarters hosted a Safe Passage Program Review and Student Ambassador Panel Discussion on Friday, April 19. Mayor Ed Gainey and Superintendent Dr. Wayne Walters came by to show support and even provided words to the Safety Ambassadors!

During this event, the Safe Passage Team revealed that data already shows a 70% decrease in discipline referrals for Safety Ambassadors involved in the program. Additionally, Safety Ambassadors spoke on a panel about how Safe Passages has impacted their life and how they positively impact their peers.



Weekly Programming

Safe Passage Coordinators tailor programming based on the needs of the school which are determined through their observations of the school and school staff input. Programs are created in alignment with the Safe Passage Safety Model.

Creating Peace

Perry's transformative program is designed to bring students with differences together around the table in a series of moderated mediations.



Elementary Male Restorative Group

Geared to support young men in grades K-8, students are provided with strategies to overcome adversity in any setting and to gain access to their desired level of success.



Wealth is a Mindset

This program cultivates prosperous and solution-oriented mindsets by equipping Westinghouse students with the essential practical skills needed to thrive,



Leading Ladies into Livelihood

This program serves to support and inspire young women of Westinghouse, and empower them to deposit the same support back into their communities to cultivate a cycle of success.



Tea Time

Inclusive circle-style group at Obama Academy where students engage in open dialogue surrounding topics of interest to enhance their interpersonal skills and foster community.



Street 'N Suits & Dresses 'N Diamonds

This is a series of workshops for young women and men to uplift, empower, teach and support young men to become mindful contributors to their communities.



Entrepreneurship Mentoring

Obama Academy brings in speakers each week to educate Safety Ambassadors on entrepreneurial skills and career fields.



WHAT IS THE SAFE PASSAGE SAFETY MODEL?

Interrupting the Transmission of the Disease, Violence, by Changing Cultural Norms

DETECT & INTERRUPT

- Communicate any potential conflicts within the school community
- Attempt to mediate any known conflicts within the school community
- Identify and communicate any social media content that would increase the risk level within the school community



IDENTIFY & TREAT HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS



- Connecting the students with services and resources from the community
- Mentoring and developing relationships to get a desired change in behavior from some of the highest at-risk individuals in the community
- Providing activities outside of school hours

CHANGING COMMUNITY NORMS

- Reducing the number of kids involved when fights occur in the school community
- Changing the community norm of recording fights to post on social media
- Spreading positive messages and norms within the school community



PROVIDING IDENTITIES



- Support and promote activities and organizations that creates identities inside or outside of the school community
- Promote school sports activities and events
- Promote after school clubs and activities, band/cheering/drill team
- Promote trade programs, technology, and career resources
- Connecting kids with identities that are known to produce good outcomes

Safety Ambassador SPOTLIGHT

It is important to take a moment to recognize the successes of our Safety Ambassadors who are working hard every day to implement the Safe Passage Safety Model in their school and community. We are so proud of you!

Perry High School:
Demir Frison received a 4.0 GPA, every quarter, of every year in high school!



Westinghouse High School:
Nathan Holmes received High Honors for the quarter.



Arlington Pre K-8:
Safety Ambassador Partnership with the Warhol Museum.



Left to Right: Safe Passage Coordinator Dana Brown, Antonio Willingham, Adajah Smith, Kalya Ramsley, Samyra Ramsley, Gisell Harris, Skye Hall, Tyshawn Tucker, Jahil Parris, Robert Shaw, David Kessler, Robert Hawkins, Elijah Wallace, Jahlee Anthony, Clifton Staten, Dion Steverson, Safe Passage Coordinator Freddy Jones.





Upcoming Programming

LEARN & EARN

Date: June 17 - August 5
Monday-Thursday, 10am-2pm

Learn & Earn is a summer program delivered by Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, and Partner4Work that provides paid jobs with local businesses and organizations for youth ages 14 to 21 years old in Allegheny County.

Safety Ambassadors will be participating in Learn & Earn to continue supporting the anti-violence mission during the summer.

2024 COLLEGE TOUR

August 2024

Safety Ambassadors will tour a variety of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and historic sites across Washington D.C. and Philadelphia, P.A. this summer! Some sites include:

- Cheyney University
- Howard University
- Howard Community College
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Lincoln University
- Temple University

Safe Passage Parent Council

If you are a parent/guardian of a Safety Ambassador and would like to join the Parent Council, please scan the QR code below to complete the preliminary needs assessment!

The goal of the Parent Council is to bring the parents/guardians of the Safety Ambassadors from all Safe Passage schools together to build a network of support and provide them with resources and opportunities to be involved in their child's education and wellbeing.



Stakeholders and Partners

This program would not be possible without the collective support and trust of our stakeholders and partners. Thank you so much!

AKA	BUHL Foundation	Consortium For Public Education	Justice Scholars Institute	Neighborhood Learning Alliance	Point Park University	S-Spa of Pgh	Thrive 18
Aliya Wray's Salon	Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	Duquesne University	La La's Salon & Spa	One Northside	Pretty Brown Girl	TeenBloc (A+ Schools)	Turtle Creek Valley
Birth of Ahava	Carnegie Mellon University	Eluma	Manchester Craftsmen's Guild	Operation Better Block	Pride Project Incorporated	The Ambiance Hair & Nail Salon	Urban Impact
Black Student Union	Carnegie Science Center	Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)	Mercy Behavioral Health	PCTV	Project Destiny - YFE	The Challenge Program, Inc.	Village Center for Holisitc Therapy
Bloom Salon	City of Asylum	Grow Pittsburgh	Moonshot Museum	Pittsburgh Promise and CCAC	Schools That Can	The Mentoring Partnership	When She Thrives
Boys & Girls Club	City of Pittsburgh	Hugh Lane Wellness	M-Powerhouse	Pittsburgh Promise Promise Coaches	Shades of Beauty	The Pittsburgh Project	Will Allen Foundation
BRAVE Teens	CMU PLUS Program	Infinite Lifestyle Solutions	National Honors Association	Pittsburgh Public Schools	Shadow Student Athletes	The Warhol Museum	Young Life

“Framing violence as a disease is a practical strategy for improving patient outcomes.”

Dr. David Milia, M.D.

Questions

If you have any questions or inquiries about the Safe Passage Program, please complete the form by scanning the QR code or using the link below and someone from our team will reach out to you.

