

SPOTLIGHT



Happy New Year!

Safe Passage is sending peace and love to everyone as 2025 begins. We hope everyone had a safe, healthy holiday season with their loved ones.

As for Safe Passage, we are excited to share what we have been up to these past few months! From our Safety Ambassadors and Safe Passage Coordinators doing an outstanding job at interrupting the transmission of the disease of violence within our schools to hosting engagement opportunities and events, we are grateful to be strengthening and expanding our relationships within school communities and Pittsburgh.

Read more for all of our exciting updates from the start of the school year through the holiday season!



The Buhl
Foundation

Safe Passage is a school-based anti-violence program rooted in treating the disease of violence using a public health approach and the Safe Passage Safety Model. It is currently implemented at Allderdice High, Arlington PreK-8, Brashear High, Carrick High, UPrep 6-12, Obama Academy 6-12, Perry High, and Westinghouse High to reduce the transmission of the disease of violence among Pittsburgh Public Schools students and their communities.

FEATURED SPOTLIGHTS:

[Safe Passage Scoop](#)

[Safety Ambassador Spotlight](#)

[Safe Passage Resources](#)

[Stakeholders and Partners](#)

Safe Passage Scoop



Cities Convening 2024

On October 1, Safe Passage team members traveled to Seattle, Washington for the Cities United Convening 2024. This marked the second consecutive year that Safe Passage has traveled to this conference to learn about violence prevention strategies from nationwide leaders, and share strategies used in the Safe Passage program to help alleviate violence in schools. Safety Ambassadors from Perry High School and Alderdice High School attended.

Maleek Parks, 12th grader at Perry reflected, "It was exciting to be around positive people and positive minds trying to change the world."

September - December at a Glance:



96

mediations conducted to interrupt the transmission of the disease of violence



542 community resources sent to Safe Passage participants

My Brother's Keeper x Safe Passage

MBK Pittsburgh under the leadership of Mayor Gainey is a cross-sector alliance with firm commitments to create a more equitable and inclusive Pittsburgh. Through partnership and collaboration, they build unity and equitable opportunity in our city where our black men and boys are safe and free from violence, feel welcomed and see themselves in a positive manner, and have equitable access to opportunities that allow them to thrive in Pittsburgh

MBK Pittsburgh has conducted listening sessions with Safety Ambassadors and tabled at the Winter Family Festival, gathering youth feedback on violence prevention, education, and workforce development.



Winter Family Festival

On December 13, in collaboration with the Estelle S. Campbell Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, Safe Passage hosted a Winter family Festival. This was a celebration of community spirit, bringing together students, parents, and neighbors across Pittsburgh for an evening of fun and community engagement. From decorating cookies to face painting, students and families had a blast making holiday memories while connecting with Public Safety officials and community resources.

Special thanks to City Councilmember Barbara Warwick, Commander Novosel, A.D. of Community Affairs David Jones, Officer Brian Wissner, Safer Together Coordinator Kayla Lewis, and My Brother's Keeper for your support!

Safe Passage Scoop (cont.)



Steelers Visit Perry

Steelers players Minkah Fitzpatrick and Dan Moore Jr. visited Perry High School to meet with Safe Passage Safety Ambassadors as part of their community outreach efforts in December. During the visit, they engaged with students, discussed the importance of leadership and teamwork, and offered words of encouragement. The visit inspired the Safety Ambassadors to continue their impactful work in creating a safer and more positive school environment.

Thank you to the Steelers and Pittsburgh Public Schools for this memorable experience!



Strengthening Relationships with Police at Allderdice

On November 6, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Officer Megan Blair visited Safe Passage Safety Ambassadors at Allderdice High School to speak with and create relationships with the students. This discussion supported Pillar 3 of the Safe Passage Safety Model: Changing Community Norms, by fostering trust and care between students and police.

Program Meet-and-Greets and Assembly with Westinghouse

Over the last few months, Westinghouse hosted various meet and greet opportunities for Westinghouse students of grades 6-12 to learn about the Safe Passage program and Safety Model. While Safe Passage is not currently being implemented within Westinghouse's middle school population, Safe Passage Director Danielle King observed that the middle school students were eager to learn about the program and discuss Pillar 3 of the Safe Passage Safety Model: Changing Community Norms.



Westinghouse also held an assembly organized by Help the Needy Not the Greedy to spread messages of kindness, love, and stopping violence amongst students. During the assembly, anti-violence advocate and HNNG Founder Hank Commodore spoke to the students and recognized some of them for their academic achievements.





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!



Westinghouse

Jhyra Noble-Russell:

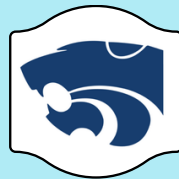
Assisting her peers in becoming academically successful by tutoring them during her free periods!



Allderdice

Patrick Germaine:

Outstanding dedication and progress!



UPrep

Kemi Makinde: increased GPA to 3.8!

Londale Manison: 4.0 GPA!

Melaun Stamper: Incredible behavior improvements!



Obama

Brionna McAtee: High honor roll!

Jaslyn Colbert: High honor roll!

Keliyah Ferguson: Honor roll and accepted to college!

Keliyah Payne: Honor roll and accepted to college!

Lindsay Baldwin-King: High honor roll!

Nahbila Dinga: High honor roll!

Nakayla Carter: High honor roll!

Ti'Asia Lee: Honor roll and accepted to college!



Perry

Mikiyah Davis- Received Junior Achievement Award and Driver's License!

Tianna Ziegler- Became a Mental Health Ambassador!

Zoe Howard- Scholarship Recipient!



Upcoming Programming

National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit

April 26, 2025
Philadelphia, PA

Safe Passage Coordinators at Perry who serve as Perry's SAVE Promise Club sponsors, applied and were awarded a scholarship to travel to the National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit! Youth leaders will be able to strengthen their knowledge of violence prevention practices and connect with like-minded youth from across the country.

City-Wide Public Safety Meeting

January 28, 2025
Katz Performing Arts Theater
MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND

Meet with officials from Public Safety and the Mayor's Office to discuss concern in your community!

How to register: email your name, neighborhood/zone, and number of people attending by January 24, 2025 to:
amber.phillips@pittsburghpa.gov

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE COUNCILS, PRESENT:

City-Wide Public Safety Meeting

Join us for the return of the city-wide meetings!

Tuesday, January 28
A light dinner will be served at 5:30pm
The meeting will start promptly at 6:30pm

Katz Performing Arts Theater
Robinson Building, 400 Campus
5728 Darlington Rd., Squirrel Hill

Meet with officials from Public Safety and the Mayor's Office to discuss issues of concern in your community

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Please email your name, neighborhood/zone, and number of people attending by January 24, 2025 to amber.phillips@pittsburghpa.gov

Any individual who requires an accommodation for effective communication or a modification of policies or procedures to attend and/or participate in a program, service, or activity provided by the City of Pittsburgh should contact the City ADA Coordinator THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE EVENT by emailing ada@pittsburghpa.gov

Safe Passage Resources

Safe Passage School Safety Model: →

Safe Passage Website:

[Click Here](#)

NewEra412 Community Resources: [Click Here](#)

Operation Better Block Website:

[Click Here](#)

Pittsburgh Public Schools Website: [Click Here](#)

Register to Vote: [Click Here](#)

PILLAR 1: DETECT AND 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

PILLAR 2: IDENTIFY AND TREAT HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS

- Connect the students with services and resources from the community
- Mentor and develop relationships to get a desired change in behavior from some of the highest at-risk individuals in the community
- Provide activities outside of school hours

PILLAR 3: CHANGING COMMUNITY NORMS

- Reduce the number of students involved when fights occur in the school community
- Change the community norm of recording fights to post on social media
- Spread positive messages and norms within the school community

PILLAR 4: PROVIDING IDENTITIES

- Support and promote activities and organizations that create identities inside or outside of the school community
- Promote school sports, activities, and events
- Promote after school clubs and activities
- Promote trade programs, technology, and career resources
- Connect students with identities that are known to produce good outcomes

Join our Parent Council!

If you are a parent/guardian of a Safety Ambassador and would like to join the Parent Council, scan the QR codes below to complete the interest form and Support Survey!

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.

Interest Form:



Support Survey:



Stakeholders and Partners

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

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

For More Information

Visit our website: <https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/Safety/Public-Safety/Violence-Prevention/Safe-Passage>

