

Central High School of McMinn County

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Dear Parents:

Students, parents and staff share the responsibility for an orderly and safe school environment. In an effort to encourage students to report bullying, harassment, intimidation, drugs, weapons and any other factors that may be harmful to school safety and are too fearful or not quite ready to come forward face-to-face to report the matter, Central High School is implementing an anonymous *Charger Tipline* system.

The Tipline is not an emergency reporting system. Calls and texts will be monitored during normal school operating hours. Any messages left outside of school hours will be addressed the next business day. During extended school breaks such as Winter, Spring and Summer Break, the Tipline will not be monitored as students and parents should report incidents to local authorities.

The *Charger Tipline* is not intended to replace direct contact with school administration. Our desire and efforts are, first and foremost, focused on encouraging students to report such issues directly to a teacher, counselor, coach, or school administrator. However, in some cases, a student can be overcome with fear and worry about who to talk to, and what to say. They may also fear retaliation, or losing the respect of their peers by being labeled a "snitch." Students with such fears need a reporting path and the *Charger Tipline* is designed to be just that. Here are a few high-level details:

How it Works

- Central High School has published the following hotline number(s):
 - **423-509-8408**
- Students or parents can send a text message to these numbers, or call and leave a voice message
- The Caller ID is masked, ensuring the report is completely anonymous
- The messages are forwarded to one or more school officials who have been designated to monitor reports
- These officials have the ability to reply to text messages & start a two-way, anonymous chat
- The goal is to engage the student and begin a dialog towards a resolution process

Our goal is to ensure that each student feels comfortable coming forward, either face-to-face or anonymously. Encourage your student to use all the avenues that are offered by Central High School to help resolve any issues that he/she may face. We are here to help, but we can't help if we don't know. As a parent, you are also welcome to report issues. Anything that you think we should know to ensure the health and safety of our students should be reported.

Regards,



Lori Hutchinson EdD

Principal, Central High School