2023-2024

Safe Mapping

Safe Mapping

Community Solutions

Current Program

Community Solutions is implementing a comprehensive program designed to increase knowledge and skills of healthy nonviolent relationships. This program will have several components: school-based prevention curriculum at the high schools, workshops for parents and staff, environmental assessment of school campus, and development of community leaders to engage in prevention.

Environmental Mapping: Safe Mapping

For the community level intervention, we conducted the Shifting Boundaries safe-mapping assessment to Mt Madonna High School. Mt Madonna High School is a continuation high school for students 16 years and older. Mt Madonna's program helps students recuperate credits and prepare students for graduation and opportunities for college. Due to the small population on campus ranging roughly a little under 200 students, the assessment was conducted with the participation of both staff and students. The safe-mapping was to ascertain safe and unsafe spaces on campus, assess reasons for safety issues on campus, and promote climate change through addressing safety concerns. Each class was selected to partake in the survey due to the small population on campus and providing the opportunity to receive results based on the campus as a whole.
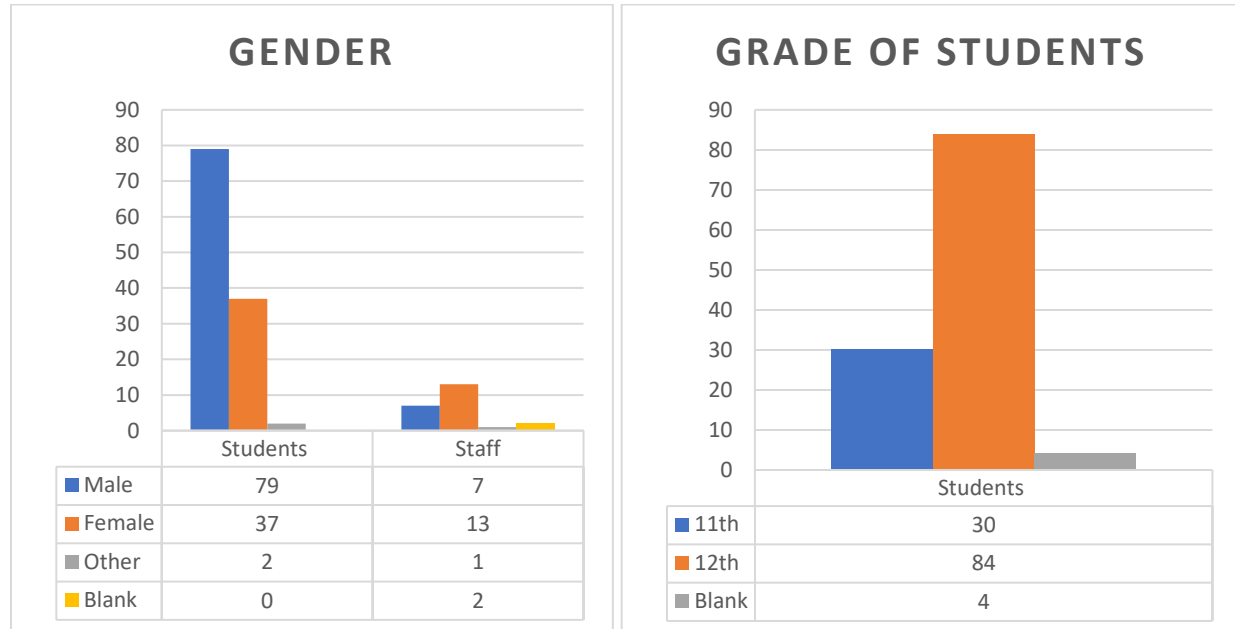

A map reflecting the campus was created by Community Solutions staff to reflect rooms numbers, seating locations, and other identifiable markers. Community Solutions' staff worked with the school administration to provide any feedback or input into the final map. The safe-mapping process was conducted at the beginning of November 2023 through an online version of google forms. Community Solutions' staff presented to each classroom for 15-20 minutes to conduct the survey for both staff and students using the same map and questions to ascertain feedback on safety concerns and ways the school can improve campus safety. Prior to presenting to students, Community Solutions' staff presented to Mt Madonna staff for 15-20 minutes and encouraged staff to complete the survey.

Afterwards Community Solutions' staff analyzed all of the data from the surveys in the following section documents the results collected.

Safe-Mapping Results

Mt Madonna Schools average less than 200 students. In November of 2023, 141 surveys were collected including both staff and students from the campus. Of those, 23 were staff (four staff completed surveys when the students completed them and 19 during the staff meeting) and 118 were student survey responses. Below is the demographic information collected from the surveys:

GENDER	Students	Staff
Male	79	7
Female	37	13
Other	2	1
Blank	0	2

GRADE OF STUDENTS	Students
11th	30
12th	84
Blank	4

Students and staff were given surveys that included a map of Mt Madonna High School campus on an online version google form and asked to identify areas on the map where they feel safe and unsafe by marking the areas labeled on the map. We defined "cool spaces" as areas students felt safe/welcoming and "hot spaces" as areas on campus where they feel unsafe/unwelcomed. Students and staff were provided two copies of the map for "cool spaces" and for "hot spaces." Students were informed to mark only specific areas where they felt this way, not the entire map. Many students and staff identified multiple areas on the map where they felt safe and unsafe. Below are the results of maps collected from students and staff.

SAFE/COOL Map Areas				
Location	Students	Staff	Total	%
Room 12 Lunch Room	58	15	73	53%
Office	69	16	85	62%
Between Office and Room 11	42	10	52	38%
Between Room 11 and Room 9 & 10	45	9	54	39%
Room 11	52	11	63	46%
Room 10	46	12	58	42%
Room 9	47	12	59	43%
Room 8	54	13	67	49%
Room 7	58	14	72	53%
Room 6	39	12	51	37%

SAFE/COOL Map Areas (continued)

Location	Students	Staff	Total	%
Room 5	58	13	71	52%
Room 4	56	13	69	50%
Girl's Bathroom	29	10	39	29%
Boy's Bathroom	41	7	48	35%
Room 3	65	12	77	56%
Room 2	59	11	70	51%
Room 1	83	12	95	69%
Parking Lot Back Entrance	51	10	61	45%
Grass Area Behind Awning	46	10	56	41%
Lunch Tables Under Awning	57	11	68	50%
Large Grass Area	46	11	57	42%
Lunch Tables By Grass Area	51	10	61	45%
Tether Ball Court	41	12	53	39%
Open Cement Area	44	11	55	40%
Basketball Court	45	10	55	40%
Lunch Tables Tree Area	51	11	62	45%
Front Door Entrance	49	11	60	44%
Park By Front Entrance of School	55	13	68	50%
Added: Cement behind room 4-8	0	1	1	1%
Added: Water Fountain	1	0	1	1%
Added: Nurse's Office	2	0	2	2%
Added: Therapist's Office	1	0	1	1%
Added: Baseball Field	1	0	1	1%
Added: Gate by Parking Lot	1	0	1	1%
Blanks	8	1	9	7%

UNSAFE/HOT Map Areas

Location	Students	Staff	Total	%
Room 12 Lunch Room	4	1	5	4%
Office	0	0	0	0%
Between Office and Room 11	4	3	7	5%
Between Room 11 and Room 9 & 10	4	3	7	5%
Room 11	4	0	4	3%
Room 10	2	0	2	2%
Room 9	6	0	6	4%
Room 8	2	1	3	2%
Room 7	4	0	4	3%
Room 6	17	0	17	12%
Room 5	6	0	6	4%
Room 4	2	1	3	2%
Girl's Bathroom	13	5	18	13%
Boy's Bathroom	13	6	19	14%
Room 3	2	1	3	2%

UNSAFE/HOT Map Areas (continued)				
Location	Students	Staff	Total	%
Room 2	3	2	5	4%
Room 1	8	1	9	7%
Parking Lot Back Entrance	13	6	19	14%
Grass Area Behind Awning	8	2	10	7%
Lunch Tables Under Awning	7	2	9	7%
Large Grass Area	7	1	8	6%
Lunch Tables By Grass Area	5	1	6	4%
Tether Ball Court	5	0	5	4%
Open Cement Area	5	2	7	5%
Basketball Court	7	1	8	6%
Lunch Tables Tree Area	7	2	9	7%
Front Door Entrance	9	0	9	7%
Park By Front Entrance of School	12	5	17	12%
Added: Around bathroom	1	1	2	2%
Added: By Room 12 smaller gate	0	1	1	1%
Added: Combo of Rooms 5/6/7 for assembly	0	1	1	1%
Added: Lunch Tables by Basketball Court	1	0	1	1%
Added: Water Fountain	2	1	3	2%
Added: Outside the classrooms	1	0	1	1%
Added: P.E. Area	1	0	1	1%
Added: Benches	3	0	3	2%
Blanks	61	10	71	52%

In the next two questions of this section, students and staff were asked to help identify any areas that were not listed on the map. Those areas were added to the tables above for hot and cool areas

The next six questions asked students and staff if their feelings based on feeling unsafe or safe in an area mattered based on gender, age/grade, and physical size. Students who answered yes were asked to give a brief explanation why.

Might the "hotness" or "coolness" of certain areas differ depending on your gender?					
	Students	Staff	Total	%	*Some highlighted comments:*
Yes	12	7	19	14%	**Students:**
No	100	15	115	84%	• I am not out as non-binary, but I can tell some teachers would be more accepting than others making me feel safe/unsafe in different classrooms.
Blanks	6	1	7	5%	
Gender					• Different experiences, different challenges, different perspectives.
	Students	Staff	Total		• Everyone should be treated equally.
Unsafe Bathrooms	1	4	5	4%	**Staff:**
Feeling unsafe/ Harassment	3	2	5	4%	• The gender neutral bathroom is in the office which can be a negative stigma from the non-binary students. The students are also sometimes searched
Doesn't Matter	2	0	2	2%	
Misc*	5	0	6	4%	
Blanks/No/IDK	107	17	124	91%	

					before entering the bathroom, this seems to be only some students and not all.
					• I get shouted at by boys • Bathrooms are inherently less supervised than other areas of campus due to privacy concerns. Violence between genders could happen here.

Might the "hotness" or "coolness" of certain areas differ depending on your age/grade?					
	Students	Staff	Total	%	*Some highlighted comments:*
Yes	6	1	7	5%	***Students*:**
No	107	20	127	90%	• certain fears of older students
Blanks	5	2	7	5%	• maybe a little because I'm older and most likely people won't do anything to younger people
Age/Grade					
	Students	Staff	Total		
Feeling unsafe/ Harassment	2	0	2	1.5%	***Staff:***
Misc*	2	1	3	2%	• maybe they see me as a younger teacher
Blanks/No/IDK	114	22	136	96.5%	

Might the "hotness" or "coolness" of certain areas differ depending on your physical size?					
	Students	Staff	Total	%	*Some highlighted comments:*
Yes	11	4	15	11%	***Students:***
No	95	18	113	82%	• People might want to pick on someone smaller than them.
Blanks	12	1	13	9%	• In every PE class I have had since elementary every single PE teacher has made me feel awful about being larger. But Mr. Beardsley didn't, he is an excellent coach.
Physical Size					
	Students	Staff	Total		
Vulnerability	5	3	8	6%	
Doesn't Matter	3	0	3	2%	• i personally feel this way but i feel like people are judging me
Misc*	5	1	6	4%	***Staff:***
Blanks/No/IDK	105	19	124	91%	• Larger areas are harder to manage. • The smaller you are the more vulnerable you are.

The next question asked if there is anything else that impacts where they may feel safe or unsafe apart from the factors in the previous questions. Students were asked to explain why.

Is there anything else that impacts where you feel safe or unsafe, please explain what and why?			
	Students	Staff	Total	%
Feel Safe	5	1	6	4%
Bad Language	1	3	4	3%
Entrance/people	2	1	3	2%
Lack of supervision	1	3	4	3%
Misc.	6	1	7	5%
No/Blanks/IDK	103	14	117	85%
Some highlighted comments:			

Students:
- No, I come from las vegas high school so this school feels safer in general. I dont have to worry about kids walking around with knifes/guns, I dont have to worry about getting caught by the wrong guys etc.
- When a teacher tells students to report another teacher because they don't like the teacher
- I don't feel safe when students are driving in the parking lot and the people around the park.
- Room 6 teacher because they are telling me what to write and to report another teacher. Room 7 because they only let the students they like in their classroom and lock out the rest.
- I feel unsafe when Liz the supervisor talks to students by the bathroom and doesn't give them privacy, welcomes some students and not others, pulls kids out of class to talk to them which prevents others from using the restroom.

Staff:
- The safeness I feel personally I think has something to do with our school culture in general.
- The bathrooms are not really safe because students will hang out in front of the bathrooms during class with the campus supervisor who will talk and hang out with them.
- No cameras no staff to keep watch
- Our driveway that takes you in is open and we are next to a public park. We get people that are NOT students that come in and drive around looking or checking out students and school. It would be great if we could close the entrance of the driveway.
- Gangs, inappropriate language
- Students do not have a covered or indoor area to spend brunch and lunch, this means they are in the classrooms during this time to stay cool/warm/dry. This can lead to crammed spaces and groups that don't usually mix getting too close to each other causing tension.

After asking students questions based on feeling safe or unsafe on campus and the various impacting factors, students were asked for recommendations. Students and staff were asked to share their thoughts on how students and staff could make the problem areas safer and more welcoming.

What can we as students do to make the problem areas safer and more welcoming? How can we as students feel safer and more comfortable at school?			
	Students	Staff	Total	%
Respectful	4	7	11	8%
Activities	1	2	3	2%
Be Kind	2	0	2	2%
Misc.	18	3	21	15%
No/Blanks/IDK	93	11	104	73%

Some highlighted comments:

Students:
- Students can be supportive by making others feel safe and not judging.
- Keep a positive mindset and focus on your work not others
- Be more nice and frie6ndly because everyone should feel welcome no matter what they look like and how they are.

Staff:
- Make more friends or talk to other students outside your normal circle of people you would regularly speak to. Also, chatting with or making acquaintances with those you sit next to in class.
- I think the students do well when given directions, if they were told to stay out of certain spaces
- I think they could help themselves be more considerate of each other. Most issues of safety are created by a lacking in our physical facility (no multipurpose room, gender specific bathrooms, etc)

In what ways could the school staff make the problem areas safer and more welcoming?			
	Students	Staff	Total	%
School is safe	13	0	13	9%
Respectful	1	5	6	4%
Communication	0	3	3	2%
Supervision	5	5	10	7%
Kindness	2	0	2	2%
Connect more	7	0	7	5%
More activities	3	0	3	2%
Better food	3	0	3	2%
More shade and seating outside	3	0	3	2%
Issues with specific staff	8	0	8	6%
Misc.	2	0	2	2%
No/Blanks/IDK	71	10	81	57%

Some highlighted comments:
Students:
• Keeping an eye out for little things and maybe people who are alone talk to them every now and then, they can just feel alone which can make them feel unsafe
• Enforce good behavior
• Play music, have games, sports
• Open up their classrooms and have bigger areas at this school maybe some more tables
Staff:
• Have campus supervisors roam and walk around more to check all areas on campus.
• Conduct projects or exercises that bridge gaps between students outside of normal circle they find themselves being a part of.
• Maintain good communication through passes, emails, and verbally to address issues quickly and to address issues before they escalate. Maintain communication with parents. Stay vigilant and adhere to routines.

Survey Discussion

Based on the findings from the survey, the majority of students and staff feel safe on campus. Students had kind words for their staff, for example one student stated, "In every PE class I have had since elementary every single PE teacher has made me feel awful about being larger. But Mr. Beardsley didn't, he is an excellent coach." The majority of feedback learned from the survey focused on improving communication and positive interaction between staff; increasing opportunities to reward and acknowledge good behavior; and improving the campus culture through communication, social gatherings, and positive activities. Some areas to improve campus safety: addressing the driveway where cars speed out; addressing bathrooms privacy and safety; and addressing school furniture and spaces to allow students more space to sit and feel comfortable.

Staff Recommendations

After compiling the results of the survey, our next step was to present the findings to staff and students at Mt Madonna. During the share back school staff and students will be able to hear about the results of the survey and have open discussions for ideas on ways to improve the school to solicit more concrete ideas and develop an action plan with objectives to increase safety on campus.

On March 6, 2024, Community Solutions staff met with Mt Madonna staff to share back our results and discuss recommendations further. The principal was excluded from the space in efforts to ensure honest brainstorming from all staff. During the discussion staff were asked to share ideas, without boundaries, of items they would like to see changed to improve their campus. These ideas could stem from items raised and learned about from the survey or other ideas they have. Below is a list of the ideas the staff brainstormed about:

1. Multipurpose rooms/wellness center
2. Welcome sign in front/marquee
3. Adding greenery to campus
    a. Repave basketball court/blacktop area
4. Adding School apparel (maybe having a student contest to design new logo)

5. Fitness room/weight room that could also be open afterschool
6. New laptops for students
7. Special food/party once per month for campus to improve school climate
8. New paint every 2 years
9. New classroom furniture
10. Solar panels in the parking lot
11. Vending machine
12. Gender neutral option for bathroom not in the office
13. Exploring what to put in the open area in back
14. Staff lounge

After completing brainstorming, staff discussed and voted on their priorities. The staff's first recommendation was to develop a multipurpose room/wellness room. Staff would like to have a space that could function as a space for activities or assemblies. They would like the space to have a lounge feel with couches, games, and have a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. Their second priority was to have a welcome sign in front of their school, like a school marquee, that could provide updates and announcements to students. The current school sign is smaller, older, and hard to see. The final priority for staff was upgrades to their campus. They would like to ensure the campus quad area keeps grass to help reduce the heat given off by just asphalt and cement. They would like to see more umbrellas or shaded areas for students to sit comfortably outside. Staff would like the basketball court to be repaved and updated. If possible, during the repaving to explore adding a volleyball polls and lines, as well as, exploring adding a handball court and wall. This could provide options for PE staff and students to play different games. The staff felt these items would help students feel more welcome, provide positive outlets to work out and socialize, and make the campus feel less like a dreary and prisonlike.

Student Recommendations

In March 2024, Community Solutions' staff met with student volunteers three times over three weeks to discuss the survey results and collect additional student input. We had 23 students participate in these discussion sessions. The students had an opportunity to reflect on the survey results and propose suggestions to make improvements to the school's culture. Students shared that they felt safe on campus, but several aspects of the campus could be more welcoming and inviting. The students' suggestions for school improvements centered on feeling more comfortable, welcomed, and happy on campus.

Here is a list of the ides the students brainstormed about:
- Buy new desks and chairs
- Offer fresher food options and improve the quality of the food
- Improve the physical campus
- More prizes or appreciation when students do well
- More school parties/gatherings
    - Prom
    - Talent show
    - Lunchtime activities
- Weight room

- Sports teams: football team, soccer team
- Reserve last five minutes of class to clean up and pack up
- At-home extra credit opportunities
- Stop searching students
- Allow slime in class
- More field trips
- Hosting a senior trip/celebration
- Career day/week

The students top three recommendations are:
1. Buy new desks and chairs
2. Offer fresher food options and improve the quality of the food
3. Improve the physical campus

Many students expressed the desire to have new desks and chairs to increase their comfort at school. Students stated their current chairs are too small, make students feel uncomfortable, and insecure about their physical size. Since the chairs are too small, students must squeeze into their desks and experience back pain and difficulty throughout the day. Another reason students desire new chairs is for group/communal seating to increase collaboration. Students reported feeling isolated with the current individualized desks and classroom layout, which limits their opportunities to develop relationships with classmates and teachers. Obtaining new desks and chairs will increase student comfort and allow them to focus during lectures, support students in developing relationships with peers, and promote connections and a positive classroom environment.

Many students expressed concern about the quality of food and fresher food options. Students would like to have more fresh fruit and vegetable options (such as salads) to improve student consumption of nutritious food and dietary choices. Students also expressed there is inconsistency in the quality of the food they are served. For example, they shared that sometimes the bread is stale, or the food lacks taste, the food is low in nutrients, or the quantities are smaller than previous offerings. Providing high-quality meals to students will help them develop healthier eating habits, improve nutrition, enhance attendance, and improve academic performance. Additionally, students suggested having food events to motivate students such as school BBQ for Ice Cream Fridays once a week or month. Finally, students requested installing a vending machine on campus so that students could select their own food items.

The students' final recommendation is to improve the physical appearance of the campus, which is currently uninviting and unwelcoming. Many students reported that the black fence surrounding the school makes it feel like a prison. In addition, the lack of trees/shade and outdated basketball court make the campus unappealing. Students suggested adding more canopies, trees, and benches with umbrellas, which will help enhance the school's appearance and comfort throughout the seasons. Another suggestion is to add more greenery to the campus by creating a garden with flowers and plants surrounding the school. Students also suggested decorating the fence to make it more inviting through art or a mural. Lastly, repaving the basketball court will bring more life to the campus. The above suggestions will help students develop relationships with peers, create a sense of community, and promote school pride.

Next Steps

Our next step is to partner with Mt Madonna administration to assist with creation of an action plan and ensure recommendations brought forth by students and staff can be adopted to their best ability to increase safety on campus and school connectedness.