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Dear Parents of Matapeake Elementary School students,

Text 2 Stop it is a program that was started in the Queen Anne's County School system in the middle and high schools as a way for students and parents to relay information to school administrators about issues with bullying or other issues with school safety.

Text-2 Stop It was created by a Maryland based company, Text2Them, Inc. It initially encouraged middle and high school students to anonymously text to report any bullying or other unsafe activity in their schools.

Matapeake Elementary School has agreed to begin a pilot program during the 2014- 2015 school year. The "Text-2 Stop It" pilot for our school will be geared for parents. We feel like this will be an effective tool for parents who would like to communicate with the school administration anonymously. Please know that the administration can still be contacted by phone, email or by appointment in addition to using the Text2Stop It program.

Parents can report an incident or concern by using the schools unique text keyword: Text MATAPEAKEES to 68398. Once received, Text2Them provides the parent with a privacy code and this starts the process of acquiring additional information by text such as: what happened, location, dates, times and names of victims, perpetrators and witnesses. If the parent has pictures or a video of the incident this information can be sent from their cell phones to Text2Them. Once the information is compiled a complete text conversation is sent to the designated school administrator for follow-up action.

Unlike current one-way text-a-tip programs that only allow parents to leave text messages, Text-a-Tip4Schools establishes two-way text communication which allows for more detailed information to be acquired for school administrators. "Text-a-tip programs work because parents and students like it and use it", says Alvin Butler President/CEO.

Sincerely,

Carol M. Kamp

For more information go to:

[www.Text2StopIt.org](http://www.Text2StopIt.org)

or

Go to the QACPS website and search for the Text to Stop it video under QACTV.

