



# Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference and Trade Show

November 13 – 16, 2011

Greater Columbus Convention Center  
Columbus, Ohio

## Blue Dot Conversation Campaign

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

9:00 a.m.

C 114–115

Jerry Schrock, teacher, Mason City

Tim Keeton, assistant principal, Mason City

William Rice, assistant principal, Mason City

Allie Eckes, senior, Mason City

Annie Clark, senior, Mason City

Danny Fair, senior, Mason City

Darin Harris, senior, Mason City

Jessica Post, senior, Mason City

Kay Akiba, sophomore, Mason City

Laura Burns, sophomore, Mason City

Hunter Burris, sophomore, Mason City

Nicole Santos, sophomore, Mason City

Matt Sewart, sophomore, Mason City

### Strategic planning

Reach your district's goals by planning for the future.

OSBA can help your district plan for a successful future by proactively implementing a strategic plan for your district. Experienced staff will work directly with the board, school officials, staff and the community to develop a dependable plan that will ensure your district reaches its vision.

Contact Kathy LaSota at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA to start the process that leads to a brighter future.

Please complete an online conference evaluation either during or after the event at:

<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/CC11Evaluation>

### OSBA Mission

*OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service and creative solutions.*

### Ohio School Boards Association

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Columbus OH 43235-6481

(614) 540-4000 fax (614) 540-4100


[www.osba-ohio.org](http://www.osba-ohio.org)

November 15, 2011

## Mason High School's BLUE DOT CONVERSATION Program



Ohio School Board Association  
Capital Conference



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### Jerry Schrock Mason HS Teacher

- INTRODUCTION
  - What is a Blue Dot Conversation?
  - What are we gonna do today?
    - Student Video Production
    - Student Reports
      - What does the Blue Dot mean?
    - Faculty Reports
      - How/why should schools implement the Blue Dot Program


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### About Mason and MHS

- Mason Community is made up of 40,000 residents
- 25 miles northeast of Cincinnati
- Ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in Ohio for its overall academic performance
- 30 out of 30 standards on 2009-10 State Report Card
- Educates of 11,000 students
- Current Enrollment at MHS:
  - Class of 2012 – 738
  - Class of 2013 – 835
  - Class of 2014 – 790
  - Class of 2015 - 846
- Mean GPA at MHS is 3.380
- 2011 Graduation Statistics:
  - 257 students received diploma with honors
  - 259 students received "Award of Merit"
  - 11 National Merit Scholars
  - 1 National Achievement Scholar

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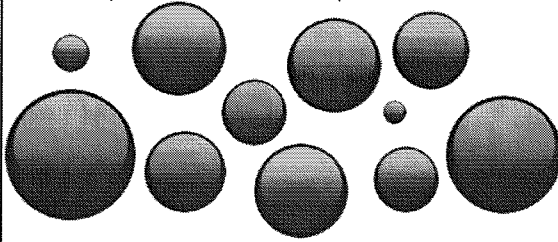
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### Mr. Schrock (MHS Teacher)

- The Meaning of the BLUE DOT
- Why are there blue dots everywhere at MHS?



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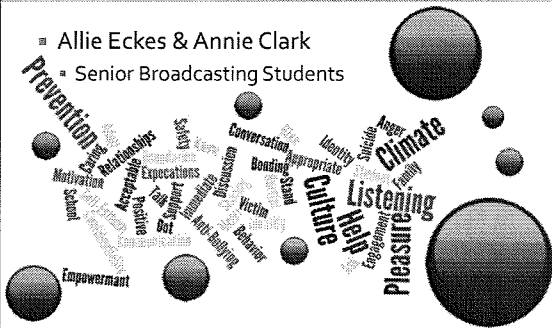
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### MHS Video Broadcasting Production

- Allie Eckes & Annie Clark
- Senior Broadcasting Students



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### MHS Student Reports

- Kay Akiba (Sophomore)
- Laura Burns (Sophomore)
- Hunter Burress (Sophomore)
- Danny Fair (Senior)
- Darin Harris (Senior)
- Jessica Post (Senior)
- Nicole Santos (Sophomore)
- Matt Stewart (Sophomore)



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## Teen Suicide

- MHS has had two successful student suicides in the past 14 months
  - More have attempted suicide
- In the next 24 hours, in our nation, 1,439 teens will attempt suicide
- Teen suicide rate is 33% higher than adult suicide rate

<http://kitn.tripod.com/>

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## Statistics on Youth Suicide

- In 2007, suicide was third leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24
- Deaths by suicide:
  - Children ages 10 to 14 — 0.9 per 100,000
  - Adolescents ages 15 to 19 — 6.9 per 100,000

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-in-the-us-statistics-and-prevention/index.shtml>

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## Risk Factors for Youth Suicide

- What are some risk factors for suicide attempts?
  - depression and other mental disorders
  - alcohol and other substance abuse
  - separation or divorce
  - physical or sexual abuse

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-in-the-us-statistics-and-prevention/index.shtml>

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### Indicators for Youth Suicide

- What indicators show a youth's risk for suicide?
  - Teen boys are four times as likely to die by suicide than teen girls
  - Ethnic groups
    - Highest for Native Americans and Alaska Natives
      - 15.4 deaths per 100,000 teens
    - White, Hispanic, and African-American teens
      - 4.7, 3.0, and 2.7 per 100,000, respectively

<http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=110295>

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### Indicators for Youth Suicide

- What indicators show a youth's risk for suicide?
  - Gay and bisexual teens are especially at risk
    - 28% of gay and bisexual teenage boys and 20% of gay and bisexual teenage girls have attempted suicide

<http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=110295>

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### Identifying Students at Risk

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
  - A dramatic change in personality
  - Relationship problems, especially with a romantic partner
  - A drop in grades or quality of schoolwork
  - Alcohol or drug abuse
  - A change in eating or sleeping habits
  - Having trouble concentrating
  - Giving away prized possessions
  - Writing notes or poems about death
  - Talking about suicide, even jokingly

<http://www.aap.org/>

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## Identifying Students at Risk

- AAP recommends:
  - Act quickly.
    - Suicide is preventable, but quick action is important.
  - Ask about it, and don't be afraid to say the word "suicide."
    - Using the word may help at-risk teenagers understand that someone has heard their cries for help.
  - Reassure teenagers that you love them.
    - Make sure they know that no matter how bad the problems seem, they can be worked out.
  - Encourage them to talk about their feelings, and listen carefully.
    - Don't dismiss the problem or get angry.
  - Consult with school mental health and student support services.
  - Seek professional help.

<http://www.aap.org/>

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## Statistics on Bullying

- 160,000 American school children miss school daily because they don't feel safe at school
- 13% of U.S. youth report to be victims of peer abuse in some form or another
  - Youth of color report more abuse based on race/religion
  - Youth in special education classes report more abuse based on disability

[www.stopbullyingnow.com](http://www.stopbullyingnow.com)

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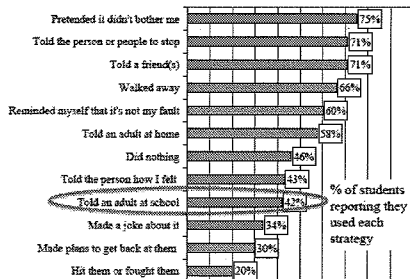
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## Youth Voice Research Project



<http://www.youthvoiceproject.com/YVPMarch2010.pdf>

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## Youth Voice Research Project

- Three patterns emerge from the data:
  - Accessing support from peers and adults was most helpful
  - Suggesting action by victims were least helpful as reported by victims
    - Telling them to solve their problems for themselves
      - EXAMPLE – fight back, stand up for yourself
  - Telling an adult at school was only rated as helpful only slightly more than it was rated as harmful

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## Youth Voice Research Project

<http://www.youthvoiceproject.com/YVPMarch2010.pdf>

■ What helped make it better?

Strategy	Better	No change	Worse
Listened to me	43%	37%	19%
Checked in with me afterwards to see if the behavior stopped	41%	27%	32%
Gave me advice	41%	43%	16%
Used groundrules for the other student(s)	19%	29%	52%
Sat down with me and the other student to discuss together	41%	27%	32%
Slept up increased adult supervision for some time	21%	39%	40%
Said they would talk with the other student or student	21%	38%	41%
Brought in a speaker	20%	39%	41%
Talked about the behavior in class more than once	20%	42%	38%
Talked with the whole class or school about the behavior	17%	39%	44%
Told me to solve the problem myself	8%	34%	58%
Told me to stop tattling	13%	33%	54%
Told me that if I acted differently this wouldn't happen to me	17%	41%	42%
Ignored what was going on	15%	43%	41%

What happened after each strategy was used by adults, sorted by "things got better"

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## Youth Voice Research Project

- Conclusions drawn from the data:
  - Listening to me and checked in with me
    - Most likely to be seen as making things better
  - Encouraging advice was seen as most helpful
    - You did the right thing by coming to me
    - It's not your fault
    - Things will get better
  - Blaming the victim is most harmful
    - You need to tone it down a bit – Stop tattling

<http://www.youthvoiceproject.com/YVPMarch2010.pdf>

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**Tim Keeton**  
Mason HS Asst. Principal

- ▣ Mandatory Reporting Guidelines
  - ▣ When should adults contact professional services?
- ▣ Confidentiality
  - ▣ Students need to know help comes from involving others
- ▣ What to do if . . .
  - ▣ Teachers need to feel comfortable



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**What can you do if you're bullied?**

- ▣ Avoid the bully and use the buddy system
- ▣ Hold the anger
- ▣ Act brave, walk away, and ignore the bully
- ▣ Tell an adult
- ▣ Talk about it (IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT)
- ▣ Remove the incentive
- ▣ Stay off bullying websites



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**William Rice**  
Mason HS Asst. Principal

- ▣ Blue Dot
  - ▣ Changing the school culture
- ▣ Speak Out
  - ▣ Seek Help
- ▣ A.L.I.C.E.
  - ▣ Message to students/staff



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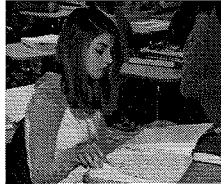
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### If Your School Wants Blue Dots

- Blue Dots can be purchased with donations to JVH Foundation
- [www.JVHFOUNDATION.WEBS.com](http://www.JVHFOUNDATION.WEBS.com)



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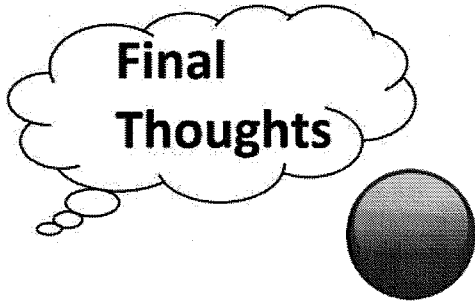
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### Final Thoughts and Take-Aways



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### For more information . . .

- [www.stopbullyingnow.com](http://www.stopbullyingnow.com)
- [www.antibullying.net](http://www.antibullying.net)
- [www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying](http://www.ncpc.org/cyberbullying)
- [www.facebook.com/stopcyberbullying](http://www.facebook.com/stopcyberbullying)
- [www.aap.org/advocacy/childhealthmonth/preventeensuicide.htm](http://www.aap.org/advocacy/childhealthmonth/preventeensuicide.htm)
- <http://kittn.tripod.com/>

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**To Contact Us:**

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▪ **Jerry Schrock**

- MHS Asst. Principal
- schrockj@mason.k12.oh.us
- Phone (513)398-5025 ext. 31302



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