



Dear Parents:

Last week we learned that a former teacher of VCP was arrested for an alleged inappropriate relationship with a former student at a school the teacher worked at before joining VCP. Please know that this was a surprise to us at VCP. The former teacher in question voluntarily left employment with VCP for reasons unrelated to today's news.

It is important that you know that our top priority is the safety and well-being of our students. In order to protect our students, we have a number of critical steps in our hiring processes and we want to share these with you. These include: 1) mandatory background checks; 2) verification of appropriate licensure; and 3) consultation with previous employers. We follow Indiana law and best practices in our hiring.

With this topic in the news, we want to take this opportunity to remind you that if your child or any youth comes to you and shares that he or she may have been a victim of sexual assault, it is important to take the complaint seriously. If you believe the child has been endangered in any way, you can file a complaint with your local police department or the Indiana Department of Child Services (<https://www.in.gov/dcs/>).

If this becomes a topic of discussion in your home, we want you to feel prepared to address it. Above and beyond the assurances of the steps we take to protect students at VCP, you may want to access some information for talking to your kids about these weighty matters. A great resource for additional information is RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization: <https://www.rainn.org/>. They encourage you to create dialogue with your teen about topics like safety or sexual assault by:

- asking for his or her opinion about related situations in the news or on TV and opening the door for more conversation;
- use your own experience or that of someone you know to tell a safety story;
- talk about caring for their friends--not just about their own behavior; talking about how to be a good friend can tell your teen that you trust him or her to do the right thing while also giving you the chance to communicate safety practices your teen may not otherwise be receptive to hearing; and
- talk about sexual assault directly--for some teens, safety issues like sexual assault aren't on the radar. Your teen may need to hear that no one "looks like a rapist".
- *To speak with someone who is trained to help, call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673) or chat online at [online.rainn.org](https://www.rainn.org/).*

If you have questions or concerns about this situation or our approach, please contact us. We would be happy to talk through any of your concerns.