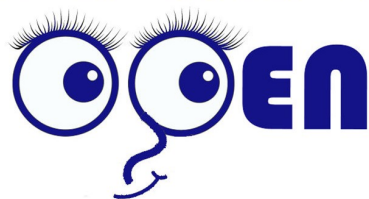


# EYES WIDE



Awareness ✧ Collaboration ✧ Image

SLS CONFERENCE 2025

Updated: 2/19/25

**March 15-16, 2025**  
Pre-conference March 14, 2025  
Shanty Creek Resort (Bellaire, MI)  
**Agenda-Subject to Change**

## PRE-CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Friday, March 14, 2025

- 7:00pm Pre-Conference Registration
- 8:00pm Team Building Activities and Ice Cream Social!
- 10:00pm Mandatory Advisor/Parent/Chaperone Orientation
- 10:15pm Room Curfew

Please note breakfast will be on your own Saturday morning.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Saturday March 15, 2025

- 9:30am-11:30am Conference and Hotel Registration  
*Schools set up exhibits; decorate hotel doors*
- 11:00am-11:20am Mandatory Advisor/Parent/Chaperone Orientation
- 11:30am-12:00pm Friend Networking and Lunch
- 12:00pm-12:30pm Opening Ceremonies-Featuring SLS State Student Advisory Board
- 12:30pm-1:15pm General Session #1-“*Magic of Hope*”, Anthony Grupido
- 1:20pm-2:10pm Workshop Session #1 **Choice of Five Topics**
- 2:15pm-3:05pm Workshop Session #2 **Choice of Five Topics**
- 3:10pm-4:00pm General Session #2-“*Navigating the Dumpster Fires in Life!*”, Michelle Turner, SLS Alumna
- 4:00pm-4:45pm School Team Meetings #1 \*Meet with Advisor(s)
- 4:45pm Break/Dress for Special Advisor Dinner
- 5:30pm Advisor Photo (*Conference Tradition*) *Advisors meet in Bellaire Foyer for Group Photo*
- 5:30pm Students Meet to Prepare for Advisor Dinner & Awards
- 5:45pm-7:30pm Advisor Recognition Dinner, *Honoring the Authors of SLS!*  
*Award & Recognition Ceremony*
- 7:30pm-8:15pm General Session #3-Memorial
- 8:20pm-9:00pm School Team Meetings #2 \*Meet with Advisors
- 9:00pm-9:30pm Break/Dance Preparation/Decorating
- 9:30pm-11:00pm The Big Dance – **Disney “Wish Upon a Star”** (*Movie option available for those that prefer a quieter experience*)
- 11:00pm Room Curfew (**11pm-7:30am**)
- 11:30pm Lights Out!

### Sunday March 16, 2025

- 7:45am-8:15am Interdenominational Service (optional)
- 8:15am-8:55am Breakfast –*Wear Conference Shirts (Conference Tradition)*
- 9:00am-9:20am All Conference Photo
- 9:30am-10:10am General Session #4-“*Personal and School Safety 101*”, Sergeant Kendall Kretzschmer
- 10:15am-11:05am Workshop Session #4 **Choice of Five Topics**
- 11:10am-12:00pm Workshop Session #5 **Choice of Five Topics**
- 12:05pm-12:45pm Lunch & School Team Meeting #3-Action Planning & Preparing Presentations
- 12:50pm-2:00pm General Session #5- School Team Presentations
- 2:00pm-2:30pm General Session #6- *#FoodFreedom*, Miss Oakland County 2024, Alexis Ulmer
- 2:30pm Closing Ceremonies and Awards
- 3:00pm Schools Depart! Drive Safely!

Student Leadership Services, Inc. \* 1150 Scott Lake Rd, Waterford, Michigan 48328

Phone: (248) 706-0757 \* Fax: (248) 706-0750 \* Website: [www.slsToday.org](http://www.slsToday.org); [www.instagram.com/SLSTODAY](https://www.instagram.com/SLSTODAY)

# Important Conference Information

1. The 2025 conference is **two days. Saturday March 15 and Sunday March 16. Conference will end at 3:00pm, Sunday March 16, 2025.** For those attending pre-conference activities that will take place Friday March 14 at 8:00pm.
2. Registration for the conference will be at 9:30 am on Saturday March 15 in the **Hotel Lobby**. For those attending pre-conference activities on March 14, registration will be at 7:00 pm in the **Hotel Lobby**.
3. Attention Advisors!!! There is a **mandatory** Advisor Orientation at 10:00 pm on Friday (for pre-conference arrivals) and 11:00 am on Saturday (for new arrivals) all advisors and/or parent chaperones **must attend**.
4. Weather permitting, we may be going outside to do an all-conference photo **on Sunday**.
5. Attention Advisors: SLS will provide an Interdenominational Service on Sunday morning at 7:45am for those interested.
6. **Swimming and Fitness Center is prohibited due to liability.**
7. **Everyone will receive a backpack at registration. Please have students prepare a backpack of the things they need for each day. Students will not be able to go back to their rooms until designated times. Please have them plan like it is a school day.**
8. Bring a nice outfit (if able) for Saturday's "Honoring the Authors of SLS!" Recognition Dinner. **Students/Chapters are asked to bring/make a gift to present to their advisor(s) on their appreciation for their advisor(s) helping them write their SLS stories.**
9. **This year we will be having a Memorial Saturday night. It is a chance for us to remember those that are no longer with us. Please submit names and/or a picture of those to remember. Submit by February 28, 2025 at this link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYcwAuduPJckG90ehpIaJRaRgLNxz8wuaNpfgQoBqTzT1GfA/viewform> **SLS Conference 2025 Memorial (March 15, 2025)****
10. The dance will be Saturday night and is a "Disney-Wish Upon a Star" theme. **School with the best dance theme attire gets a chance to take home Happy the SLS Mascot!**
11. Bring packaged cookies or other packaged snacks to share at the dance (please avoid nuts).
12. SLS Conference has two traditions: Door Decorations (bring items to decorate your hotel door-**This year Door Decoration theme is "Keep Your Eyes Open For..."** on things that get in the way of students being their best self. (Examples: mental health, bullying, limitations, tolerance, blindness to what is happening around them, Vaping, and other teen issues).
13. Bring your school/chapter or group banner to display and a chapter exhibit to display and show off your group's work!
14. Conference Day 1: Wear your school/chapter shirt and Conference Day 2: Wear the conference t-shirt for the all-conference photo!
15. **Note: Because the conference ends at 3:00pm on Sunday SLS has requested that all SLS conference participant rooms have a later check out. However, there is no guarantee. Please plan accordingly.**
16. You should have received or will receive an email or fax about the status of your registration (ex. If you are missing anything or are all set). Any questions call Dawn Flood at SLS 248-706-0757 before March 12. After March 12 call cell 248-462-9995.

**Conference Menu: Saturday Boxed Lunch: Cold Cut Hoagie Ham, turkey, salami, swiss and cheddar on a hoagie bun Sides: apple, potato chips and a cookie.**

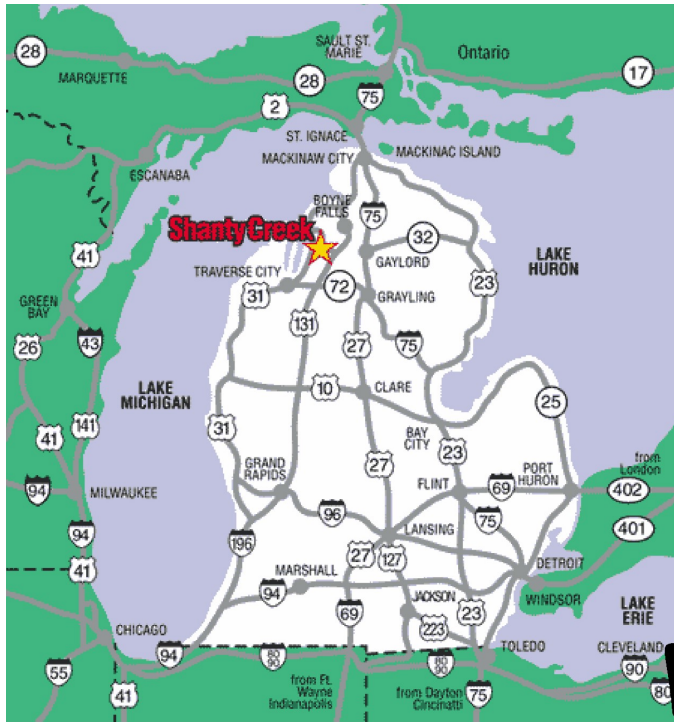
**Saturday Dinner: Chicken Parmesan, Baked Pasta Casserole, Vegetable, Salad, and Chocolate Cake**

**Sunday Breakfast (In Restaurant Dining Room): Scrambled eggs, Omelet station, Sausage, bacon, breakfast potatoes, and fruit**

**Sunday Lunch: Nacho Bar and Assorted Cookies**

***Note: Any dietary restrictions or allergies that were documented on registration form will be accommodated by Shanty Creek.***

# Getting to Shanty Creek

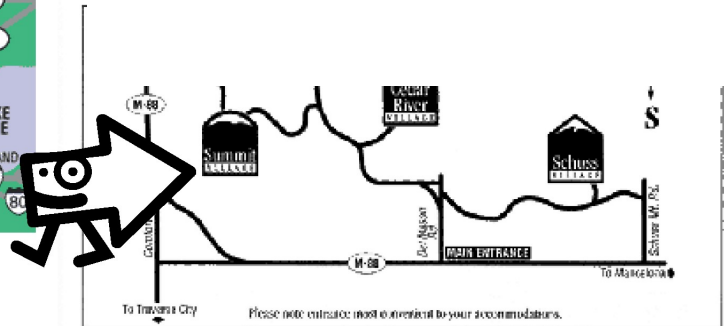


One Shanty Creek Rd., Bellaire, MI 49615

1-800-678-4111

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

**Conference is in the Lakeview Hotel  
/Summit Village  
(Main Lodge or Summit Entrance)**



Follow Interstate 75 North from Detroit to Grayling: M-72 West toward Kalkaska. In Kalkaska turn North on US 131 to Mancelona. From Mancelona, take M-88 West to the Shanty Main Entrance.

Proceed North on US 27 to Grayling, M-72 West to Kalkaska, Turn North on US 131 Mancelona. In Mancelona, take M-88 West to the Shanty Creek Main Entrance.

Take US 131 North from Grand Rapids to Mancelona. In Mancelona, turn west on M-88 the Shanty Creek Main Entrance.

**Directions for shortcut that saves about 20-30 minutes.**

**175 North to Exit 270. (I think the sign also says "Waters" which is barely a town.) Turn left off exit. Take road until it ends, turn right. 1<sup>st</sup> road on left (Passenheim, and it comes up right away – about a block) take till ends. Turn left. You are on M-88. Take through Mancelona and follow signs to "Shanty Creek SUMMIT CENTER". Wait to go into Shanty Creek until you see the "SUMMIT CENTER" signs. There are several properties at Shanty Creek, and several entrances.**

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**TO BRING AND TO DO LIST**

\*Give each student a copy!

**Packing List/To Bring:**

- Messages displayed on your car or bus (if you want to!)
- Hotel Door Decorations to advertise your chapter (if you want to!)

**Door Theme:**

**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR...** on things that get in the way of students being their best self. (Examples: mental health, bullying, limitations, tolerance, blindness to what is happening around them, Vaping, and other teen issues)

- SLS or School/Group Banner
- Group Exhibit
- **Let's start a NEW conference tradition!**  
Bring up a pin/button to exchange with other groups. Pins/Buttons can be worn all conference weekend and brought back year to year.
- Drinks and Snacks for your group
- Package cookies, or package snack to share at the dance (please no nuts)
- Bring an extra Group/School shirt to be added to the next SLS T-shirt Banner!
- Nice outfit for Advisor Dinner \*We encourage participants to dress up for the Saturday Advisor and Award Dinner if able. **Students bring a gift to present to their advisor(s) on the theme "Honoring the Authors of SLS!" How can you thank them for helping your group write memorable SLS stories?**
- Dance Attire for the DISNEY "Wish Upon a Star" dance.
- Workshop supplies (if you are presenting)
- Group or School t-shirt to wear on Saturday (bring an extra to add to our t-shirt banner collection)
- ENERGY! PASSION! ENTHUSIAM!
- Something to give your group a distinct identity. We love the group and school spirit!

**Don't Forget to:**

- **STUDENTS!** Please create an item or gift to present to your advisor during the Advisor Recognition Dinner. *How will recognize your Advisor(s) for everything they have done to help you. Ideas: Thank you cards, photo book, memories that represent "Honoring the Authors of SLS!" How can you thank them for helping your group write memorable SLS stories?*
- **Advisors!** Make sure all forms are sent in and payments are made to SLS (registration fee) and Shanty Creek Resort (hotel fee) **ALL CHECKS GET MAILED TO SLS and SLS will pass onto Shanty Creek**
- **Advisors!** Make sure all students and adults receive and review Conference Rules and Important Conference Information.
- **Submit names/pictures for the Memorial. Submission deadline is February 28. Submit here**  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYcwAuduPJckG90ehpIaJRaRgLNxz8wuaNpfgQoBqTzT1GfA/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYcwAuduPJckG90ehpIaJRaRgLNxz8wuaNpfgQoBqTzT1GfA/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- Check out the SLS website [www.slstoday.org](http://www.slstoday.org) for the latest conference information.
- Call SLS if you have any questions 248-706-0757 office; 248-462-9995 cell or email Dawn [dmf@slstoday.org](mailto:dmf@slstoday.org)



**Pre-Conference Activities Presented by the SLS Student Advisory Board: (March 14, 2025)**

School teams will participate in team building game activities that will increase their groups bonding and attachment as well as give them a chance to network with other schools across Michigan.

Disney Design Team Activity; Ice Cream Social; Buddy School Jenga Competition; and more!

**Conference Keynote Speaker and Presenters: (March 15-16, 2025)**

**Anthony Grupido**

Anthony is a magician and keynote speaker based out of Detroit, Michigan. He's performed magic all over the world and worked with celebrities like the Impractical Jokers, David Dobrik, the Chainsmokers, and even some America's Got Talent Winners!

His world class magic is top notch—but his story of overcoming depression and anxiety is why you see him speaking at so many schools and conferences about mental wellness.

**Michelle Turner, SLS Alumna, Atherton High School**

Michelle is a Spanish Teacher at Atherton High School and an SLS Alumna. Michelle has been involved with SLS for more than four decades as a former student, former SLS Board of Director Member, current Alumna and current SLS Advisor. In her presentation she will share ideas about how to "Navigate the Dumpster Fires in Life!". She will give tools and strategies on how to set realistic expectations and how to be our own advocate when life happens.

**Sergeant Kendall Kretschmer, Livingston County Sheriff's Office**

Sergeant Kendall Kretschmer has served for seventeen years with the Livingston County Sheriff's Office. He currently supervises the Community Outreach Unit and the School Resource Officers. Kendall is dedicated to engaging with the community and youth to enhance safety and encourage positive decision-making through educational policing.

**Smart Choices, Safe Spaces: Personal and School Safety 101**

This presentation will discuss empowering students with steps to keep themselves safe during an active violence event, risk reduction on social media, and how positive and healthy choices can help keep us safe.

**Alexis Ulmer, Miss Oakland County 2024**

Alexis is the reigning Miss Oakland County 2024, who will go on to compete for Miss Michigan in June 2025! At 19 years old, Alexis is a recent high school graduate and deeply sympathizes with the work SLS is achieving in schools around Michigan. In association with the Miss America Opportunity, she has chosen her Service Initiative to be #FoodFreedom – Preventing Eating Disorders on College Campuses. While Alexis served as Miss Oakland County's Teen in 2022, she worked closely with teenagers and even got the opportunity to present in classrooms about the significance of social media and the effect it has on the way we perceive our bodies. She is beyond excited to be invited as a keynote speaker for SLS and cannot wait to be a part of the change they are creating!



## **Workshop Sessions: March 15-16, 2025**

### **Dress to Impress**

Dress to impress is a workshop where you can learn skills on how to be your best self when in an interview, you will learn how to properly communicate as well as proper eye contact and more.

Presented by Myah Randolph, Sophomore, Brighton High School, SAB 2025

### **Lego Your Ego**

In this workshop you will learn the concepts of teamwork by collaborating with others using Legos and your storytelling skills, in this battle of creativity you will go out of your comfort zone and meet some new friends.

Presented by A'niyah Daniels, Junior, Clarenceville High School, SAB 2025

### **Do You Need to Look Good to Feel Good**

Most people feel they need to dress like other people to fit in. However, this is not the case. In this workshop you will learn about how you don't need to dress like others to fit, and not to judge people based on how they look.

Presented by Marvin Mills, Sophomore, Marion Jr/Sr High School, SAB 2025

### **The Power of Words**

Abracadabra means 'What I Speak Is What I Create'. Words are very powerful when it comes to how we behave, feel, and act on situations. In this workshop Anthony uses Magic to demonstrate a lesson about challenging out thoughts and assumptions. We then work together to identify our negative self-talk and reframe it in a way that's constructive and positive. Presented by Anthony Grupido

### **Love for the Game: The Mental Effects of Sports**

This workshop focuses on the pros and cons of high school sports and how they affect mental health. We will also discuss how coaches affect your desire to play and go to practice, how teammates help you stay motivated, and ultimately how all these factors contribute to your love for the sport and what tools you can utilize to improve and sustain positive mental health. Presented by Sam Wiacek, Junior, Clarenceville High School

### **Exit 18-Creating a plan for your future after high school**

There are many different routes to take after high school. Are you going to college? Join the Army? Just stay home and work? Deciding is the first step. The goal of this workshop is to figure out the steps needed to achieve the route you want to take with a laid-out action plan. Presented by Pastor Benji Goss, SLS Alumnus

### **Phone FOMO**

TikTok. Instagram. Snapchat. YouTube. Texts. How many of these, and others, do you use and check every day? How many times? How much time do you spend on your electronic devices? On average, teens spend 7 hours and 22 minutes each day in front of a screen. There is FOMO. But what is all that time in front of a screen doing to you both mentally and physically? This session will explore the addictive nature of our devices and what they are doing to alter our lives, minds and bodies. It will also provide tips on how to manage your usage so that you don't miss out on the good stuff in your life. Presented by Ann Colwell Johnson, SLS Program Specialist.

**More Expresso Less Depresso - Saying Thank You Matters**

In this workshop you will discover the amazing benefits of gratitude and how to increase thankfulness in your SLS chapter and in your life! You will also create great projects for personal and team use. Presented by Marcia Partin, SLS Prevention Specialist.

**Steering Over Selfies**

Have you wondered why people choose to drive impaired or distracted? This interactive workshop shares the root of the problem and presents a public health approach to traffic safety. Teens in the Driver Seat is a nationally recognized best practice program in peer-to-peer traffic safety and we'll workshop attendees through behavior change models and empowerment activities to activate the traffic safety ambassador in each of us. Presented by Therese Standard, M.ED., CPPE., Teens in the Driver Seat Youth Transportation Safety Program.

**Transition Tales**

This workshop will introduce the importance of being an Ally and how to be a better advocate for yourself and those around you. Presented by Edelyn Westwood.

**ADVISOR WORKSHOP- Advisor Survival!**

Are you a struggling Advisor? Are you wondering how you will survive? Do you have Students/Teens Depressed? Struggling? Disengaged? This workshop will help educators and adults who work with teens learn skills that will help them provide opportunities to students so that students are Engaged, Accepted, and SUCCEED in school and life! Presented by Ward Bartlett, Retired Educator, SLS Board of Director President.

## ADVISOR/PARENT/GUEST RESPONSIBILITIES

\*Please review carefully

1. Faculty Advisors are needed to be in attendance and actively involved with their students and other advisors during the conference. They are also expected to participate in conference activities, i.e. workshops, etc.
2. Advisors/Parent Chaperones are to remain at conference/hotel location from arrival on Saturday (Friday if attending Pre-Conference) until the conference ends Sunday afternoon. Advisors are to be present for any pre-conference or post-conference activities/events.
3. Advisors will be considered on duty 24 hours a day and will be contacted if needed.
4. Vehicles are to be locked on the conference facility grounds during the entirety of the conference and the advisors are to hold the keys of their students who may have driven. Participants are always expected to remain in the conference facility.
5. **Advisors, Parents, Guest or Speakers are not permitted to use alcoholic beverages, smoke/vape or use any legal or illegal drugs during the conference.**
6. Dress is casual for conference except for Saturday's Advisor Dinner. Business casual dress is suggested for Saturday Award and Recognition Dinner.
7. As a Faculty Advisor you will be responsible for youth attending from your school. In addition to being available to them during the conference, we have scheduled school meetings that you will facilitate with your group. You will receive School Team Meeting Agendas in your Advisor Folder that you receive at registration.
8. At night you will need to make room checks to assure that your students are accounted for before you retire for the night. SLS's Conference Assistants (CA's) will also be doing bed checks. Students are expected to stay in their rooms following "lights out" (no trips outside or to other student rooms).
9. Faculty Advisors are expected to intervene when any participant is breaking conference rules. See Disciplinary Action.
10. You will be expected to participate in any disciplinary decision-making and action involving your students.
11. Faculty Advisors are expected to cooperate with Conference Assistants and staff at the Conference.
12. If student(s) is feeling ill at conference. Advisors will be the first contact for students who are not feeling well. Advisors will need to sit with their students. Students will not be allowed to go to their room. If student(s) is too ill to participate in activities and need to come to office/med room, phone call home will be made to discuss if student is able to continue at conference.
13. All the above responsibilities for Faculty Advisors also apply to any Co-Advisor Parents accompanying the group. Please make this clear to any Co-Advisor or Parent Chaperone(s) attending.



## SLS CONFERENCE RULES &amp; EXPECTATIONS 2025

Please share with students and all adults attending.

These rules are designed to ensure that all participants enjoy a maximum learning experience in an environment conducive to an exchange and sharing of ideas and concepts. Conference participants who violate these regulations will be subject to **disciplinary action, which may include being sent home and/or a report made to the participant's parents or guardians, or administrator.** All participants are expected to abide by these conference regulations regardless of age. **ALL RULES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Student and adult participation and attendance at workshops, general sessions and all conference activities are **mandatory.**

**APPROPRIATE ATTIRE:** SLS follows school dress codes. Conference is at a hotel resort and conference center. Conference may include outside activities (weather permitting) Please bring appropriate winter clothing such as, coats, hats, gloves, boots, etc.

**BEHAVIOR:** All participants are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner. Including no girls in boy's hotel rooms and vice versa unless advisor is present. Absolutely no Public Display of Affection (PDA). Behavior that falls below generally accepted standards may result in removal.

**CURFEW:** When conference activities are finished for the day all students must report to their hotel room. At no time may students leave their room or hotel once curfew is in place.

**CELL PHONES:** All participants are expected to have all cell phones off or on silent while in workshops or general sessions. There will be no phone use of any kind during any presentations. Respect and courtesy of presenters and conference activities are expected.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE:** Intentional damage/theft of hotel or personal property is strictly prohibited. Disciplinary action will include financial remuneration for such damage or theft and removal from event.

**SAFETY:** Nametags must be worn throughout the conference. All conference participants must stay within the designated hotel and activity areas. Advisors must be informed of student locations throughout the conference. Students are not permitted to be on balconies and currents must remain closed at all times. Pool and fitness center are prohibited due to liability. Absolutely NO WEAPONS of any kind are allowed on the premises by students or adults. Any participant (regardless of age) found with a weapon will be removed from the conference immediately and will be reported to the police.

**SMOKING:** This is a **no smoking** conference. Smoking of cigarettes, pipes, cigars, vape pens, e-cigs, etc. by adults or students is **not** permitted.

**USE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS:** Any participant found to be under the influence of or in possession of alcoholic beverages or other drugs, will be immediately removed from the conference. **This includes any adult, speaker or conference guest (regardless of age).** Advisors or medical staff must be informed of prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

An offending student's advisor will be involved in disciplinary decisions however, the SLS supervision staff and conference coordinator will take final action. Disciplinary actions, depending on the severity may include and are not limited to the following: VERBAL WARNINGS, TIME OUTS, and/or DISMISSAL FROM EVENT.

Depending on the severity of the event, parents and/or school principals will be notified.

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