



**STANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
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Four years ago, a young, idealistic visionary brought Safe School Ambassadors (SSA) to the campus of Stanford Middle School. This teacher had experienced the impact of the program at a school in Northern California and felt strongly that there was a place for it at our site.

In the years since its inception on our campus, SSA has carved its niche in our school community. We currently have a total of 64 students, 18 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 23 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and 23 8<sup>th</sup> graders participating. SSA provides an important "role" for students who oftentimes might feel they have no impact on and no connection to the school at large.

We have seen a steady decrease in our number of school suspensions, which I credit to the Ambassadors. We have seen a decline in the actual number of altercations and have been provided more than once with information on an illegal substance and / or item on site. In addition, because of timely information, we have been able to intervene sooner with pupils in need of outside counseling for various issues (cutting, eating disorders, etc.).

More than what is visible to the eye, it is what people do not see that these students are responsible for - it is the subtle supporting of a positive school climate. Safe School Ambassadors learn at an early age that they can make a difference at the school site, in the lives of others, in their own lives, and in this world. It is a great program for all concerned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathleen Cruz'.

Kathleen Cruz  
Principal