

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES & CONSIDERATIONS when hosting a live virtual session:

We are your Teammates:

As you read through the pdf files for helping you have the most successful program(s) possible, please know we are here for YOU. We have helped many schools host their very first live virtual assemblies. Seeing their joy afterward for how well everything went and hearing from them about the incredibly positive impact the program(s) had on their students has been awesome. If you have a question, let us know. We want to do everything possible to make this process go as smoothly for you as possible.

Create a Safe Space with Counselors:

For students who could be triggered with the discussion of sexual assault, please provide a live virtual room (like a Zoom Meeting) where they can click into at any point during the main program. Creating this space is a wonderful way to let survivors know they are being fully supported. If you provide such an online space for this program, please add that information to the Introduction of the presentation.

Instead of having a live Zoom Meeting running at the same time as the live virtual program, some schools will provide a link where the students can schedule a time to talk with a counselor afterward.

Be Willing to Kick Students Out and Call Home:

If students do not believe serious consequences can occur, some (if even just a few) could do serious harm through inappropriate comments in the "Chat." To avoid disabling the Chat, please add to the introduction that any students whom are not respectful in the Chat and/or make any comments not directly related to what Mike, the speaker, is discussing will be kicked out and their homes will be called to talk with your guardians.

What about students with special needs?

Some schools have experienced situations where students with special needs struggled to understand the rules and thus made inappropriate comments more frequently than other students. Please have teachers and staff who work with students with special needs reach out to the students and establish very clear expectations of behavior in the Chat.

Have Co-Hosts:

Have 4 or more staff as "Co-Hosts" to monitor the Chat at all times. Mike gets lots of students positively engaging in the Chat and so it can move by at incredibly fast speeds. We recommend having at least 4 staff members monitoring the Chat as Co-Hosts and be sure each Co-Host is willing to kick students out. Doing so when necessary helps tremendously in keeping a safe space.

What about students we know are survivors?

Reach out to them and let them know what the program is about. Share that Mike will reinforce the strength and courage of survivors in the program.

Being willing to interrupt Mike:

Make sure each Co-Host knows that if anything disrespectful or concerning is mentioned in the Chat that Mike Domitrz does not address within 1 or 2 minutes of the comment occurring, ***INTERRUPT Mike Domitrz and ask him to address the comment*** (if Mike is not addressing such comments, it is because he probably did not see the comments – so you are helping Mike by interrupting). When you interrupt Mike to ask him to address such comments, Mike will know how to respond in a helpful, constructive manner for everyone. By doing so, the students get to see the school recognize concerning comments and they get to watch Mike role model how to respond to such comments with a caring and passionate approach.

Should we consider not having "Chat"?

We strongly recommend enabling the Chat feature. Chat can be a wonderful place for all the students to engage and really have ownership in the discussion. For this reason, Chat is an asset. The key is setting the expectation and absolutely following through with it.

You turn “Chat” ON in your main Zoom Account settings. Make sure to turn “Private Chat” OFF. By having Private Chat turned off, you make the event much safer because students are prevented from having private chat conversations. With Chat turned on and private chat turned off, all comments are seen by everyone (thus all comments are able to be moderated). This combination provides for a highly interactive learning experience for the students.

THANK YOU:

As a school leader, you are addressing a vitally important topic in the lives of your students. You are commended for understanding the importance of doing so. You probably are aware some students or parents could raise concerns AND that is okay. The education around these skills and discussion points is essential for the well-being and safety of the student body as a whole.