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Safety patrol a hit at school and home

Teaching responsibility and improving behavior at school were the main goals when Delaware Community School partnered with the Albany YMCA to launch a safety patrol this fall.

But the lessons haven't ended with the school day.

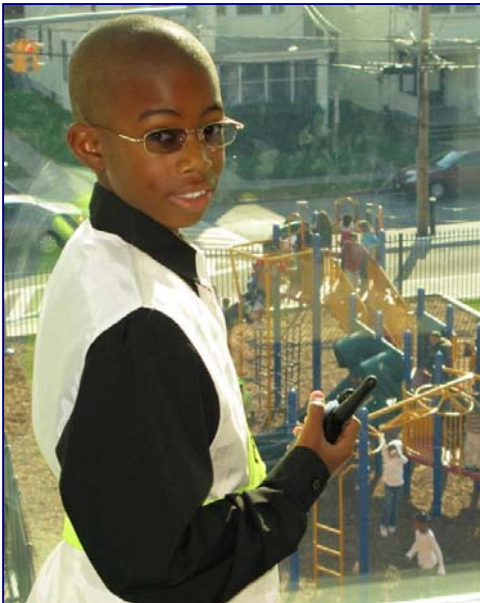
Parents also are seeing the benefits at home as their children eagerly embrace the task of being leaders and role models in their school community.



“We’re getting great feedback,” said the Y’s Christian Anthony, who supervises an after-school program at the school and worked with Interim Principal Gary Beadnell to develop the safety patrol. “The parents are excited.”

So are the students.

About 30 fourth- and fifth-graders are participating, with a waiting list equally as long – and growing. Safety patrol members monitor nine posts before school and also assist with dismissal.



Caleb Smith is among the safety patrol leaders.

“This is one little moment in their life that can change their life,” Mr. Anthony said.

Participants received two days of training early in the school year before the program was implemented. Mr. Anthony taught them how to monitor the hallways and playgrounds, and help with dismissal at the end of the school day.

Weekly assignments for each safety patrol member are posted next to the school’s main entrance so that everyone knows where they are supposed to be. Assignments change each week, mostly so that everyone gets an equal chance at duty on the school’s terrific new playground!

Mr. Anthony also uses a walkie-talkie system to stay in touch with his student supervisors.

The *Times Union* reported on the safety patrol Oct. 1.

“I have a responsibility,” fifth-grader Tamir Ford told the newspaper. “It makes you feel good.”

“What a difference it’s making in terms of the kids who are on the safety patrol, their behavior, and also the other kids in school,” Mr. Anthony said. “It’s just had a quieting influence on everyone. The students are just so proud being on the safety patrol.”