

## FAMILY PLEDGE FOR SECURITY AND SAFETY FROM GUNS

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children ages one to 17 years old in the United States. Unsecured guns in homes or vehicles pose a risk for both unintentional firearm injuries and deaths, and youth suicide. In most school attacks where a firearm was used, the weapon was obtained from home. In many cases, the gun was not secured. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that parents store guns unloaded and locked, with ammunition locked and stored separately. Most youth firearm injuries and deaths are preventable if families and/or caregivers follow secure gun storage guidelines. We are asking families and caregivers to join us in making our school, our homes, our students, our teachers, and our community safer by agreeing to follow the Be Smart steps and to show their commitment by signing this gun secure storage pledge.

**S - Secure all guns and ammunition in your homes and vehicles:** store guns unloaded, locked, and ammunition separate

**M - Model responsible behavior around guns:** talk to your children about how to be safe from guns

**A - Ask about unsecured guns in other homes and vehicles:** before your children go to another home, ask adults, "If you have a gun, how is it stored?"

**R - Recognize the role of guns in suicide:** store guns securely to decrease the risk of child suicide by a firearm

**T - Tell your friends, family members, and neighbors to Be SMART**

### Pledge:

**We, parents and guardians, acknowledge the recommendations for secure gun storage. We pledge to keep our school, our homes, and our community safe by Being SMART and using the five Be Smart steps.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Caregiver

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/ Caregiver

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

For more information, go to [BeSMARTforKids.org](http://BeSMARTforKids.org).

For access to an unlimited number of free cable gun locks, contact the St. Margaret of Scotland GunSense committee at [gunsense@stmargaretstl.org](mailto:gunsense@stmargaretstl.org), or request one from any St. Louis City public library, police station, or fire department. These sites have unlimited access to cable gun locks courtesy of the Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice.

**In the end, it's the beginning that counts.**