



Office of the Superintendent

Phil Jankowski

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December 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The tragedies that occurred in Oxford Schools yesterday have disturbed parents and students and have once again brought school safety to the forefront. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Oxford High School. I am sending this letter out to explain our safety procedures and update you on our plans going forward. I believe we have a very safe school system and want to ensure you we are doing everything possible to keep our students and staff safe. Below are some the measures we are taking:

- We hold lockdown and safety drills several times a year to train students and staff on the appropriate procedures to take in case of emergency. We coordinate these with the local, county, and state authorities including Homeland Security to continually revise our processes to stay vigilant against emerging concerns.
- We have trained and are currently planning additional training in the ALICE system for the district. We have used this system since 2018 as it takes a more proactive approach to threats and asks students and staff to Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate.
- We have school resource officers servicing all our buildings.
- We had already begun the process of conducting building audits as part of our strategic planning process and will continue this process as we look to update our safety infrastructure.
- All of our doors are locked at first bell each school day and we have a buzzer system to enter our buildings at the main entrances. All visitors are required to check in at the main office.
- We also have partnered with the police to stop in at each of our buildings on a more frequent basis to provide a greater presence and sense of security.

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Empowering all students to succeed in an ever-changing world.

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As with any challenge a community faces, everyone needs to play their part. Below are some suggestions for what students and parents can do to assist us with improving our security.

- Please encourage your children if they hear or see anything -- in person or on social media -- to tell a trusted adult **immediately** (i.e., a parent, the police, building principal, a teacher, OK2SAY, etc.). This is the most important thing we can do to prevent a school shooting.
- Reach out to our teachers, principals, social worker and counselors if your student or family is in need of additional support. They can help and can provide referrals to additional professionals.
- Please refrain from spreading rumors or other information of which you have no direct knowledge. Our administration takes every report seriously and we have encountered several instances where students have relayed information that was false.
- Encourage your students to be responsible on social media and in public. Every comment is investigated, and could result in discipline or legal action, even if said in jest. We do not want to see students get into trouble because they were trying to be funny or make light of a serious situation.
- Please help us maintain our locked doors and don't prop or hold doors open for others. The buzzer system at each school is in place to protect our students and staff.

The security of our students is of paramount importance and we will continue to review and revise our practices to follow the best practices provided by our law enforcement partners. Should you have any questions, please contact your child's building principal or my office.

Thank you,

Phil Jankowski

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