



Office of Superintendent

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School Safety in the Menasha Joint School District

The topic of school safety has received plenty of attention in recent months due to several tragic events and the political and civic debates prompted by those events. Locally you may be wondering, "Are our schools safe for our students?" or "What have we done to attempt to ensure the safety of our students?"

Although I am in no position to guarantee that nothing bad will ever happen in any of our schools, I can tell you that we pay constant attention to the subject of school safety and work every year to balance the safety of our students and the functionality of our facilities. We need our schools to provide a safe, inviting, and nurturing environment in order for our students to learn and grow.

Here is a list of several steps that have been taken over the past few years to help create safe and secure schools in the Menasha Joint School District:

1. Board of Education Approved Security Policy
2. Comprehensive Crisis Response Plan established and reviewed annually
3. Current Building Access Security Plan including Active Photo ID Badges required for all Employees
4. Visitor Badges required for All Visitors in All Buildings (including visitor log & sign-in)
5. Categorized Levels of Building Access with Emergency Lock Down Controls for Administrators
6. Established staff "Heart Smart" Emergency Response Teams (CPR, First Aid, AED trained)
7. Required training CPR, First Aid & AED training for selected employee groups
8. Established District & Building Incident Command Structures with trained faculty in crisis response (including regularly planned drills).
9. Established and Maintained School Resource Officers (1-HS, 1-MS & 1 All Elementary)
10. Tactical site & vulnerability surveys conducted with district, local Emergency Management Systems (EMS) & law enforcement representatives

11. Video surveillance cameras on all building exteriors (some interior video surveillance at MHS and MAP)
12. Policy requiring all exterior doors remain locked during school day. Video intercoms are at all of the main entrances of the buildings to allow the public to enter once buzzed in.
13. Emergency Response Guidebooks developed, provided and maintained for all Administrative & Instructional personnel
14. Building Emergency Response Checklists requirement implemented for Administrators (Annual, Quarterly & Monthly Duties)

Along with these ongoing efforts we have submitted our application for the grant monies that are being made available to us by the recent Legislative action. To learn more about the grants please visit <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-school-safety/school-safety-grants>. We intend to apply shatter resistant film near and around all main entrances of each building, add to and upgrade our school surveillance camera systems, and address any other secure entrance issues that are present.

Please know that we will continue to do what we can to provide the safe, secure, and welcoming learning environments that you expect in our schools. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss this topic further or have any questions. Go BlueJays!

Sincerely,
Chris L. VanderHeyden
Superintendent of Schools