



March 1, 2018

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Tragically, school safety has been flooding the headlines of every form of media over the last several weeks. For schools to be effective during these tragic events, they must be mindful of school safety every day. Student safety (physical and mental) is our district's top priority. Year after year, it drives multiple decisions we make about policy, procedures, spending, construction, transportation, professional development, etc. Every necessary precaution is taken to ensure the safety of all. Administrators, teachers, parents, students, and community resources work together in the never ending commitment of making our schools a safe and welcoming place. The safety of our students is always of the utmost importance to the school district. Every day, decisions are made that impact the safety and security of our students.

Families choose to send their children to a specific school because of the educational experiences. They do not choose a school because of the safety and security. Everyone assumes schools are just a safe place. This safety and security does not happen by accident. Proactive strategies have helped Walton-Verona create a welcoming environment while enhancing safety and security. Effective communication and involving stakeholders are the keys to our proactive strategy. Examples include:

- Recent Safe School Audits conducted for each school;
- Collaborated with Boone County Emergency Planning Commission, Boone County Sheriff's Department, and local fire departments to revise various emergency practices;
- Common Crisis Procedure Guides;
- Multiple changes to our facilities;
- Employee, substitute, and visitor identification system;
- Supervision schedules;
- Consistent procedures and practices in each school;
- Professional development training for teachers and staff.

The details of our emergency plans must remain confidential. We are very careful to not publish our procedures, evacuation locations, floor plans, and other information that could be used by individuals seeking targets for destructive purposes. The following outlines our emergency and disaster response plan:

1. Prevention – proactive strategies that enhance the safe and orderly learning environment;
2. Protection – capability to secure schools against acts of violence; constant analysis and adjustments;
3. Mitigation – the process of deciding what we will do in the event of an emergency;
4. Response – the process of implementing appropriate actions while an emergency situation is unfolding;
5. Recovery – the process of assisting people with immediate and ongoing physical, psychological, and emotional trauma associated with experiencing a tragic event.

In the event of an emergency, parents will be notified with very specific information. We want parents to know their children are safe and also the details of the situation. During any emergency, for the safety of all students and staff, please follow the instructions disseminated at the time of the situation. We ask that parents do not descend upon the school or call looking for additional information. Our goal is a quick reunification with your child. Many emergencies require this reunification to take place at an alternative site. School and law enforcement officials will communicate this information to parents as soon as they are able to do so.

Please be assured that Walton-Verona Schools take many other precautions to help ensure the safety of our students. If you have questions or concerns about school safety, please contact your child's school or the district office.

Thank you for your support,

*The Walton-Verona Administrative Team*