



Northern Local Schools

Administrative Offices
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Website: <http://www.nlsd.k12.oh.us>

February 28, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardians,

The safety of our students is the most daunting charge that we have as educators and it is one that weighs heavy on my heart daily. Due to the recent events regarding the safety of schools, I thought it might be helpful to share with each of you some of the proactive steps Northern Local has taken over the years to improve the safety of our students and staff.

We began our long-term safety plan during the 2012-13 school year. We have continually reviewed our plan as both technology and trainings have advanced. I have listed a summary of the majority of the equipment, training, and partnerships that have been implemented to improve the safety of students and staff within our district. There are some improvements and details that will not be shared as doing so may jeopardize the integrity of our safety plans.

- 2011-2012 – **One-Call messaging** is purchased
 - Immediately contacts parents/guardians of emergency information
- 2012-2013 – Installation of “**Single Point of Entry**” doors
 - All doors are locked and visitors must report to this location to be buzzed into the building
- 2012-2013 – Installation of numerous **security cameras** throughout the district
 - Law enforcement has direct access to all cameras in all buildings at all times
 - **Command center** that allows a secluded individual to announce location of threats
- 2013-2014 – All staff trained by our Perry County Sheriff’s Department in **A.L.I.C.E.**
 - This program takes an active approach to student safety rather than passive
- 2013-2014 – All classrooms have an **A.L.I.C.E. backpack/bucket** filled with supplies
- 2013-2014 – Select staff participated in **Advanced Response Tactics** for active shooter scenarios
- 2014-2015 – **Navigate** is a program purchased by the district
 - It makes all of our safety plans accessible at all times for our local police and fire/rescue
- 2015-2016 – Updated/Revised **safety plans approved** by Ohio Department of Education
 - Reviewed/Updated annually
- 2016-2017- **Improved Security Camera Systems** and additional cameras at all buildings
 - These are viewable on cell phones/iPad and computers by law enforcement
- 2017-2018- (March) **Table Talk Exercise** planned with EMA/Sheriff Department
 - Response to an Active Shooter. (Evaluate the effectiveness of our plan)
- 2017-2018- (June) Full **Active Shooter Exercise** with all emergency personnel serving district
- 2018-2019 – **STOP THE BLEED** first aid training for staff


In addition to these steps, each building conducts a minimum of 9 safety drills annually.



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We are also very fortunate to have an outstanding relationship with all of our law enforcement departments and they are at our buildings often to offer support. The reality remains that regardless of what physical barriers we put in place or what training we implement in an attempt to stop an attack, it will be our relationships with our students that is our best defense. Connecting with our students, your children, enables us to see the early signs of depression and detachment that can sometimes lead to desperation. We have implemented programs that focus on the social and emotional development of students, which I believe is the most important piece of our plan for security. The "Positivity Project" and similar programs encourage tolerance, acceptance, and understanding. These are all characteristics that can help foster a nurturing culture in our schools. Creating an environment where students feel loved, supported, and a part of something may be our best defense against the terrible events that have happened elsewhere. That is where we can all work together, as a community, to identify warning signs in our children so that we can get them the help they need. Please teach your children that "If they see it, Say IT", "If They Hear It, Tell IT." I encourage you to contact your child's principal or myself when you have concerns or hear reports of a threat rather than sharing information on Facebook and other social media as it may cause unnecessary panic among our students, staff, and community. We are in this together and the more we work together to ensure our children's safety, the more effective we can be collectively.

Yours in Education,

Thomas Perkins
Superintendent

Our principals will conduct **Community Safety Meetings** for parents/guardians to ask questions and have discussions about school safety at the following buildings and times:

Location	Date / Time
Glenford Elementary	Thurs. March 1 @ 6 pm
Thornville Elementary	Tues. March 6 @ 6 pm
Somerset Elementary	Weds. March 7 @ 6 pm
Sheridan High School	Thurs. March 8 @ 6 pm
Sheridan Middle School	Monday March 5 @ 6pm

If you are unable to attend your child's building event, please feel free to attend any of the others.