



# The City of St. Charles R-VI School District

REACH.....TEACH.....EMPOWER

February 28, 2018

Dear Parents,

School safety and security is something that weighs heavily on all of our minds. School tragedies are too frequently in the news to remind us that despite whatever security measures are put in place, we cannot afford to become complacent. Our schools have more safety and security precautions in place than ever, but our work in this area will never be done. Below you will find a summary of school safety and security measures that have been implemented in the City of St. Charles School District.

## ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Jeff Marion  
Superintendent

Dr. Danielle Tormala  
Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum & Instruction

Dr. Charles Brazeale  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business & Technology

Dr. Jason Sefrit  
Assistant Superintendent  
Human Resources

Mrs. Julie McClard  
Director of  
Special Education  
& Student Services

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## General Security of Buildings/Schools

- Secure/monitored entrances to schools that require visitors to enter the office area before gaining access to the rest of the building (all schools either have been renovated or will be as a result of the district's most recent bond issue)
- Secured entrances utilize an intercom/camera system that allows office staff to screen visitors before unlocking door to allow entry
- We have 651 surveillance cameras - several being fisheye cameras with up to six different views, resulting in more than 1000 different views (interior and exterior)
- All cameras can be accessed (live feed only) by the St. Charles Police Department in the event of an emergency (can potentially track an intruder, determine best location for first responders to enter, etc.)
- Electronic copy of floor plans for all schools that can be accessed by first responders (includes interior photos of all classrooms, identifies shut-off valves, and other emergency information)
- All staff wear district provided identification badges/cards
- Electronic building entry/lock system
- Regular collaboration with government agencies and law enforcement
- Threats of violence and/or social media posts involving weapons reported to law enforcement officials
- First Responders are trained to "Go towards the threat" – officers will not wait for SWAT or backup in a potential loss of life scenario
- Full-time School Resources Officers assigned to St. Charles High School/Success and St. Charles West High School
- Full-time Dare Officers assigned to Jefferson Intermediate and Hardin Middle School
- The district and each school has a Crisis Plan that outlines emergency procedures, including evacuation and intruder response procedures
- All staff annually review options-based emergency procedures related to active shooters/intruders
- Students participate in a wide range of emergency drills annually
- A security/crisis phone app was piloted with staff, but unfortunately had to be discontinued due to inconsistencies in its ability to perform for all staff as advertised
- Additional safety equipment/services continue to be reviewed in an effort to find affordable and reliable emergency notification tools for staff

**Communication Enhancements**

- School Messenger system (automated phone and email system)
- District website “pop up” notifications
- District Mobile App (for phones, tablets, etc.) with anonymous “tip line” and “push notifications”
- After hours emergency phone service
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Building phone alert system may be used to alert and broadcast emergency messages to all other building phones
- Building public address systems (separate from phone alert system)

**Meeting the Social/Emotional Needs of Students – Assessing Threats**

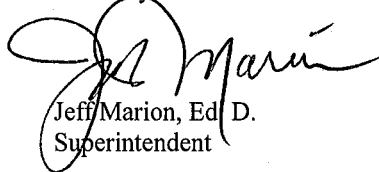
- School counselors and peer mediation programs
- Trauma Informed Schools training for staff
- Memos of Understanding with numerous outside agencies to provide additional student counseling services
- Increased number of social workers
- Threat Assessment Checklist to evaluate verbal threats
- Required psych evaluations for students viewed as “high risk” based on assessment tool
- Supports for families (Care to Learn, Neighbor Helping Neighbor) to reduce stressors
- Participation in CRUSH (Community Resources United to Stop Heroin)
- Legislative advocacy to support funding for Mental Health services
- Focus on providing a safe, nurturing environment for all students

As you can see, we have taken enormous steps forward over the last several years to enhance school safety and security. Our commitment is unwavering. Of course, there is always more that can be done. I will be forming a Safety and Security Advisory Committee of stakeholders (including staff and parents) to review safety/security procedures, review safety initiatives and products, and make recommendations for the district. My hope is that as a community we will be able to find a balance of safety and security measures that maximize student and staff safety without greatly diminishing school climate.

Finally, please continue to talk with your children about the importance of reporting any concerns as soon as possible. Students who talk about hurting themselves or others should be reported immediately. We need as many eyes and ears on the ground as possible.

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to share your thoughts over the last week. Your feedback is truly appreciated. As I have always said, school safety is a shared responsibility. Together, we will maintain safe and nurturing schools for our students.

Sincerely,



Jeff Marion, Ed D.  
Superintendent