

Dear Parents,

We have had a few days since our Board working session on School Safety to reflect on the conversations we had that evening. The goal of creating a safe school environment is not new for our school system, but safety is certainly more emphasized with the social climate we now live in. One of our Board Goals is: ***“All students and staff will have safe schools”***. This goal remains unchanged.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of what we are doing in the district in reference to school safety. This is not an all-inclusive list, but does give an overview of our current/future efforts.

### **Safety Initiatives In Our District**

- We maintain full-time School Resource Officers at two schools currently (Corbin Middle and Corbin High). Thanks to community efforts we look to add an officer for next year and I have spoken to city officials (and met with the City Commission) about that possibility.
- We are continuing to practice a locked door protocol (meaning that our teachers instruct during the day with their doors locked at all times).
- We have had safety audits and walk-throughs performed by the KY Center for School Safety (at all schools) and have implemented many of their suggestions throughout the years.
- Our schools focus on developing meaningful relationships with ALL students. We do this a number of ways, but our most effective way of “getting to know” students is through programs like Morning Meetings in our younger grades, Advisory period in our Middle School and AIM (Advise, Instruct, and Mentor) in our High School.
- We host a local 2-day Professional Development conference in our district which will have sessions on school safety, developing relationships with students, and effective mentoring.
- We have counselors in our district from three different sources. Comprehensive Care assigns one counselor per building (with 3 at our Educational Center), our Youth Mental Health grant allowed us to employ three other counselors, and we also have counselors that are more traditional in nature (academic). We also have a certified school psychologist located in the district as well.
- We utilize an anonymous threat tip-line which allows parents and students to make comments, inform, or share information without expressing who they are. **The phone number for this tip-line is 1-800-418-6423 ext. 359; there is also an email component [www.safeschoolhelpline.com](http://www.safeschoolhelpline.com).**
- All schools have safety vestibules and are monitored by school staff consistently.

- We have established a District Safety Walk-Through team. This team is going to assist principals with an “extra set of eyes and ears” in reference to building safety and effectively monitoring lockdown procedures.
- I visited the March City Commission meeting to discuss the implementation of another SRO, road issues at CMS, and the potential use of officers in an overtime scenario.
- We have begun a much more focused, intentional prosecution of threats and perceived threats. We will be pressing charges on all incidents of this nature.
- Our SRO’s will attend training with KSP (Kentucky State Police) and the Center for School Safety to further evaluate our lockdown and evacuation protocols.
- We have worked with our principals to strengthen our drop-off and pick-up procedures in order to be sure that students are safe during these vulnerable times.
- We are implementing new methods for evacuation if the need should arise. Students are being made aware of the process we want them to follow and all potential means of exit.
- In an attempt to keep all stakeholders “in the loop” we have been more intentional about sending out messages to inform parents about lockdowns and potential threats we are investigating.
- I have made contact with the Commissioner of Education and asked him to make a request of the Kentucky State Police Commissioner to allow or to make provision for their troopers to be able to work overtime in our schools as Safety Officers.
- In reference to metal detectors, our panel of safety experts from across the state and various agencies uniformly agreed that in a school setting such as ours, the use of stand-alone detectors would not be as effective as having a trained, uniformed armed presence on campus. Our SRO’s and administrative staff have begun using metal detector wands at the High School and Middle School.

*We have had a banner year both in and out of the classroom with our students performing at unprecedented levels. We have much to celebrate, from an all-time district high composite ACT score to numerous athletic and extracurricular accomplishments. Thanks for allowing us to educate your child.*

***David Cox***

Superintendent

Corbin Independent Schools