



Dear parents, guardians and friends;

The recent terrible tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida has put school safety in the news and in our conversations.

At Great Oaks, the safety of our students is always on our minds, and we work to keep students safe in a number of ways:

Through our buildings. Locked entrances and a check-in system that matches visitors' identification with state criminal records helps us to ensure that those who enter our schools belong there. Security cameras throughout our campuses are monitored continuously by a security staff member. Additional safety features are also planned.

Through our training. Staff and students participate in drills throughout the year to practice our actions during natural disasters as well as other potentially dangerous situations. We also practice ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) methods to help us respond to emergencies.

Through our staff. Each campus houses an experienced, dedicated School Resource Officer who is a member of local law enforcement. In addition, Great Oaks' Public Safety Services Department is made up of talented professionals who train police, fire, and military personnel in a wide range of emergency and rescue activities—giving us a unique resource for our own schools. Great Oaks' Safety Coordinator, who develops and oversees safety plans for all campuses, is an experienced retired police chief.

Through our relationships with students. Great Oaks classes are unusual; small groups of students stay together with the same career instructor for half the day during their entire two years here. This allows students to develop strong connections with their classmates and with their instructor, and instructors who know their students well are in a better position to see when individuals are having difficulty, either inside or outside of school. Our partnership with local mental health organizations means that professional counselors are always available at each school when students have needs.

We encourage you and your child to pass along any concerns. If you see something, say something—whether it's a questionable social media post, a troubling comment in or out of school, etc.—let us know or report it anonymously via text or phone call at 844.SaferOH (844.723.3764).

We'll continue to be a part of the local, state and national discussions about how to keep students safe. In the meantime, we want to stay connected to you. If there are issues or concerns in our schools, we'll let you know—and we hope that you keep in touch with us as well.

Thank you for trusting us to prepare your young adult for a successful future.

Sincerely,


Harry Snyder
President/CEO

Kevin Abt
Dean of Instruction, Laurel Oaks