



**FEBRUARY 15, 2018**

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Dear New Albany Families, Staff, Students & Community,

Our hearts go out to all who are impacted by the tragic events of yesterday afternoon in Broward County, Florida at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. With each violent incident we are reminded, whether in a school environment or as a community, of the important role we all play as a source of prevention to tragic and senseless acts of this nature.

The New Albany - Plain Local School District is committed to the safety and security of our students, staff and learning environments. To ensure everyone's safety, we continue to partner with our local law enforcement, firefighters, and other first responders to review and practice safety plans, required drills, and make necessary improvements.

While it is impossible to predict or prevent every situation imaginable, we purposely create, train, practice, discuss, learn, inform and assist students, staff, and visitors with proper and required safety protocols throughout our school campus. Our actions align with our school safety plans that have been created in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and the fire department.

Our school safety plans are updated annually and are reviewed, approved by, and filed with the New Albany Police Department, Plain Township Fire Department, and the Attorney General's Office through their Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Homeland Security Offices. These plans include protocols for addressing serious threats to safety of students, employees, administrators, visitors and school property and protocols for responding to emergency events that may occur. Additionally, our first responders also have electronic access to these plans and every building blueprint through a robust electronic system utilized by our school district.

*\*For safety and security, access to such information is restricted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code.*

Our constant reinforcement of safety protocols and the use of training events remind everyone to be aware and vigilant. We must do our very best to look for potential situations either observed physically, on social media or through other electronic means (i.e. text or email) and to remain proactive. We value the assistance and responsiveness of our community partners through the City of New Albany and through Plain Township.

Our school building external doors remain locked at all times. Staff and secondary students have key card identification access to unlock doors. Visitors are required to present photo identification upon entry to secured vestibule entries.

We have two full-time New Albany Police Department School Resource Officers present on our campus every school day. Both officers routinely patrol school buildings and our campus. We are very grateful to the City of New Albany for providing these officers in addition to Mr. Chaddock in Campus Security.

Examples of enhancements in the past several years include:

- Reconstructed school building entrances at our Early Learning Center, Primary, and Intermediate Schools to install new entry ways and door lockdown mechanisms to increase main entry security at our schools
- We have provided additional training to staff on police-endorsed safety and security protocols, practiced fire, lockdown, barricade and evacuation drills with our students in age appropriate ways
- Added text messaging alerts for parents and guardians
- Updated our volunteer and visitor policies via action by our Board of Education
- Replaced and increased security cameras at the high school

**“See Something, Say Something” is a very simple mantra.** It is one that has proven to be of tremendous value to our school district. Our staff, students, parents and community members DO say something when they SEE something and it has helped us to avoid or quickly resolve concerns. The safety, security, and welfare of students, staff, and visitors on our school campus is paramount and requires constant vigilance and awareness.

Our ultimate goal is to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students, staff and visitors to our school campus, our school buildings and our school events. Our schools cannot do this without a partnership between parents, communities and local safety officials.

We will continue to be proactive in doing everything possible to protect the safety and welfare of everyone on our school campus and ask for your continued cooperation, assistance, and support as well.

Michael Sawyers  
Superintendent

## Message from Kettering City Schools to staff

Dear KCS Staff:

The school shooting yesterday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida is an absolute tragedy. Our prayers go out to the families, friends and co-workers of the students and staff members who lost their lives or were injured in this senseless act of violence.

This shooting is a stark reminder of the issues facing our country and our schools, as we all mourn the loss of lives in yet another school shooting.

We can never know exactly what is going on in a person's mind and what prompts an individual to open fire on innocent people. Could this shooting in Florida have been prevented? This is a question that will undoubtedly be debated for weeks and months to come. What we can do is use this awful tragedy as a "teachable" moment in our own school district.

First and foremost: If you observe something that doesn't seem right, if you hear a comment or conversation that doesn't sound right, if you witness behavior that doesn't look right...please say something to your principal, counselor or supervisor. If you see something on social media that is concerning, please bring the social media post to the attention of your principal, counselor or supervisor.

I can promise you that we will confidentially look into any and all comments from students and staff. We will not overreact and we will not make assumptions about an individual without investigating completely, but make no mistake, we will take the information you share with us seriously. Please also take the time to remind your students of this very important action that we can all take to help make our schools as safe as possible.

Secondly: Please take the safety drills that we conduct in all of our buildings seriously. While I cannot promise that what happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School will never happen here in Kettering, Ohio, I am confident that if we all commit to listening and learning when we conduct these safety drills, we can mitigate the outcome, in the unlikely event that something like this were to happen here in our district. Again, please reiterate this with your students, as well.

You will also find a reminder as to how to use our district wide Safety Tipline attached to this email. And, because I know that many of you are parents, I am also attaching a document put out by the National Association of Elementary School Principals that you may find helpful.

Sadly, the shooting in Florida is a constant reminder that evil lurks among us. Our faiths and beliefs are tested during these difficult times. If you or your students feel the need to talk with someone about this tragedy, please seek out your school counselor or principal. And please keep the families and friends of those who lost their lives yesterday in your thoughts.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, comments and suggestions,

Scott Inskip  
Superintendent