

Northview Public Schools

School Safety Measures

Thank you for reading last week's communication. For your reference, the previous two messages, as well as other helpful resources, can be found at www.nvps.net/district/schoolsafetymeasures. Today's topic speaks to how we are building strong community partnerships to improve school safety.

- April 11: What we are doing to prevent school violence
- April 16: How we are teaching our students to report information regarding school violence
- April 23: Improving school safety through strong community partnerships
- April 30: The "whole child" approach to school safety
- May 1: Community Safety Summit (see sidebar)

Improving school safety through community partnerships:

As Northview has worked toward improving safety and security, we have readily sought out professional support and resources available to us within our community. We are one of eight districts in Kent County to have a full-time School Resource Officer, Deputy Kozal.

Northview is also one of only two districts in Kent County that partners with Pine Rest to provide an onsite Behavioral Health Liaison. Mr. Eric VanBuskirk, LMSW, serves to support our students and their families by assisting our social workers, counselors and principals. Mr. VanBuskirk is especially adept at helping to connect our students and families to community behavioral health resources.

To encourage and promote a safe campus, and to provide an anonymous and confidential avenue for reporting criminal, drug or firearm activity, our district has posted visible information about the Silent Observer/"Fast 50" program. Students are encouraged to report observations which may cause concern or anxiety, with the assurance that reports are investigated confidentially and immediately in partnership with district administrators. Some tips are handled using district resources; activity of a more serious nature is handled through local law enforcement. Specific details can be found at: <https://www.silentobserver.org/fast-50>.

To be certain that we are doing all we can do to provide a safe environment for Northview students, we also reached out to Secure Education Consultants (SEC/Firestorm) for a review of our physical campus, buildings, and to review our crisis response protocols. SEC provided an in-depth review of each of our buildings in December 2016. We have already addressed and acted upon many of these recommendations, including application of safety film for the large glass entries in some of our facilities, installation of additional cameras, and the revision of safety protocols. More detailed information about the report and our response will be provided at the May 1st Community Safety Summit.

In addition, we are currently working with Rockford Construction to address the installation of secure vestibules in our elementary and middle schools.

Most importantly, we have scheduled the May 1st Community Safety Summit to invite your questions, suggestions, observations and comments with the firm belief that the safety of our students and our schools is a community concern, which will be more successfully resolved by community partnership and support.

Community Safety Summit

May 1, 2018

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Northview High School
Performing Arts Center

AGENDA:

6:00 PM Doors Open

6:30 PM Welcome/Opening Comments

6:40 PM Panel Discussion

7:20 PM Audience Q&A

8:00 PM Closing Remarks



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