



**Triad Local School District**  
**7920 Brush Lake Rd.**  
**North Lewisburg, OH 43060**  
**937-826-4961**

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March 6, 2018

Dear Parents,

Due to the recent tragedy in Florida and the real and perceived threats of violence within our own state, school safety is certainly in the front of everyone's mind. As we watch the news we reflect on the safety of our own children in our schools. As a father and a school superintendent, I too am deeply concerned about violence in schools and I am determined to make sure our students are safe.

Student and staff safety is our top priority at Triad Local Schools. We work very closely with the Champaign County Sheriff's Department to fully investigate any information we receive about threats of violence. I appreciate our strong partnership and for the dedication of the officers and our school staff in making sure our students are safe.

There were some rumors circulating last Friday and we had several students stay home from school. The reality was that there was never an actual threat about the high school on Friday, there were only rumors that were not reliable, consistent or specific. Each report was investigated fully. School was in session on Friday because it was safe.

We work with students, school staff, the Ohio Department of Education, and first responders to review our safety plans regularly. Due to safety concerns, we cannot openly share the details of our plans as doing so would inform anyone who wants to cause harm. There are several operational guidelines we follow to help ensure the safety of our students. They include:

- Dress Code: No hoods/hats are to be worn in the building. Wearing them can prevent school employees from accurately and quickly identifying individuals who potentially pose a threat.
- Entry Procedures: We have a single, locked entry point in each building where visitors, including students who arrive late, are required to follow check in procedures prior to entering the building. These doors are automatically locked and have a buzzer system that includes a camera.
- ALICE: Our staff has been trained in active shooter response training (ALICE), which teaches a leveled response to acts of violence. Potential responses include flight, sheltering in place, and/or fighting. Each building conducts regular safety drills appropriate to each age grade level.

- Hotline: We have a 24-hour hotline that can be reached by calling or texting 844-723-3764 (844-SaferOH). We encourage parents to contact their child's school office during the school day, but outside school hours anyone can use this number to report safety concerns. Reports can be anonymous and we investigate **EVERY** report.
- All students who drive a vehicle to school are required to register their vehicle with the high school office and are to display a current parking permit. This allows the school to quickly determine if a vehicle on school grounds is here for legitimate reasons. Students need to register their vehicles every school year.
- Supporting Mental Health: Our staff works closely with community agencies and families to assist them with mental health and behavioral needs.

Our best defense against school violence is forming close relationships with students. A startling statistic from a 2017 Triad surveys tells us that only 49% of our 6th, 8th, and 10th graders report having positive family communication that allows them to seek advice and counsel from a parent. From the same group, only 50% that report having support from three or more non-parent adults. As a school and as a community, we need to make sure every child has an adult they can talk to, whether they are a parent, staff member, community member, or even better, all three. Some great ways to connect with and support students include:

- TALKING to your child often about school and their life and asking questions.
- Monitoring your child's social media activity and text messages.
- Knowing your child's friends.
- Reminding them safety is their responsibility as well and that if they know something they should tell an adult.
- Letting them know threats are serious. Remind them not to joke around about any type of school safety issue. It is simply not a joking matter and there will be consequences for causing panic.

Finally, if anyone sees or hears anything about a threat related to our schools, he or she needs to notify a school employee immediately and provide as much information as possible. School officials will promptly investigate any reported threat to the safety of our students and staff. If it is after school hours, students should call the hotline and/or call the Champaign County Sheriff's Department.

Sincerely,

Chris Piper  
Superintendent