



Winthrop Public Schools

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Lisa A. Howard
Superintendent of Schools

September 3, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the 2019-2020 school year begins, I would like to share some important information regarding our commitment to school safety.

Our school system has very specific protocols in place that reflect our planned reactions to threats, active emergencies and intruders. The Winthrop Fire and Police Departments are key members of our Safety Team and partner with us by providing ongoing guidance and support as we encounter situations both in and outside of our community. Chief Delehanty and Chief Flanagan have worked closely with me to ensure that our safety protocols and response measures are compliant and communicated with our families in a manner that leaves no potential breach in identifying the specifics that would leave us vulnerable to any potential interruption of the safety protocols that we have in place.

Some information can be shared, such as...we have updated safety protocols that are provided to those who work within our schools, we have a schedule of district wide fire/safety/intrusion/lock down/hold in place drills in each school building that have resulted in many structural improvements intended to enhance safety. All school buildings complete a fire and police inspection prior to the opening of each school year, our door locks and mechanisms are routinely checked, "safe spots" have been selected in all classrooms and take into account many variables, all staff are required to become ALICE Certified upon hiring, we have Tier 1 and Tier 2 Threat Assessment Teams that are made up of Administrators, Police, Fire and Community Health staff, we provide a myriad of health and wellness professional development, we have a full time School Resource Officer and the Administration has direct access to police and fire support as needed. In addition to the above, we are also keenly aware of students who are emotionally fragile and have documented and undocumented mental health issues. We also have staff with extensive experience in identifying and referring students to agencies for further follow up and investigation for mental health concerns. We are fortunate to work with students that are candid with expressing feelings and thoughts and comfortable with our staff however, we have trained professionals on staff to identify those students who are not. The Winthrop Police Department is consistently responsive, and they take every inquiry and concern seriously with diligent follow up.

Safety is something that requires ongoing adjustments and it is critical that schools remain proactive and vigilant which is why it is a major component of our School District Strategic Plan and involves the partnership of the Police and Fire Departments.

I hope this information is helpful to you in understanding our ongoing commitment to keeping your children safe while they are in our care. Please reach out to me or your child's Principal with any concerns that you may have, now or in the future. On behalf of the Winthrop Public Schools, I would like to wish everyone a safe start to the new school year.

Respectfully,

Lisa A. Howard

Lisa A. Howard, M.Ed.

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