

Insight on Education  
By Superintendent Nick Carter, Ed.D

*"Of course, learning is strengthened and solidified when it occurs in a safe, secure, and normal environment."—Jean-Bertrand Aristide*

The safety of our students and staff in the Breckinridge County School District is and always will be a top priority. Our hearts break for the victims and families affected by the unspeakable and tragic events that have taken place at Marshall County High School and other schools around the country this year. Together as a community, I want to encourage everyone to continue having conversations about school safety and mental health and wellness. We can work to protect our children and help individuals who might be struggling with mental health issues.

Moving forward, we will continue to place the safety of our students and staff in the school district as the highest priority. A partnership between the Breckinridge County Sheriff's Office and the school district is in place allowing for the assignment of a police officer in the school district throughout the 2018-19 school year. We are excited to welcome the officer to our school district and look forward to working with him to ensure a safe learning environment for our students and staff. In addition, the school district will continue to work with all of our local police officers in the county and city departments to provide optimal security.

The use of hand-held metal detectors will be utilized in the school district during the 2018-19 school year. Every student entering the middle and high schools will be scanned as he/she enters the building. Procedures are in place at both schools to allow this to occur as quickly as possible on a daily basis.

Online social media threats have been an issue for school districts in Kentucky and throughout the nation in recent years. As a result, the school district has entered into an agreement with a company to monitor all social media platforms against any threats to our schools. School district leaders will take all potential social media threats seriously and act promptly to ensure safety. In addition, we have collaborated with the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) to implement an online reporting system in the school district. Our district and school websites have a link called "S.T.O.P.!" that anyone can access to report bullying,

violence, or other issues. As always, we strongly encourage the reporting of anything that someone might feel is a potential threat to our students or staff.

School safety is evolving in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and we as a community must do so ourselves. Ensuring that our children attend school in a safe and positive environment is a responsibility all of us take seriously. The support of this great community is a blessing for our children and those of us fortunate to serve the school district. Providing our children in Breckinridge County tremendous educational opportunities in a safe learning environment is and always will be what we strive to accomplish. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about safety procedures in the Breckinridge County School District.