



February 23, 2018.

Dear Parents, students, staff and community members,

As news of the latest school shooting in Parkland, Florida flood the media, we again encounter concern about safety in our schools and communities brought on by another senseless tragedy. Please know that above all else, student safety is our primary concern.

It is important for you to know that we proactively work to keep our schools safe through these protocols:

- Each building has one entry access with all other doors being locked. Surveillance cameras are in place throughout the elementary and high school buildings.
- We work closely with law enforcement and emergency responders to help our students and staff practice drills in the event of an emergency situation.
- Many staff have advanced crisis training to address prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery – to meet the needs of students, families and community in the event of an incident.
- We are encouraging students, parents, and staff to report anything they see/hear out of the ordinary, or alarming, to school administration.

School personnel and families play a critical role in helping to re-establish a sense of normalcy and security for children after an act of violence occurs. The National Association of School Psychologists has provided [tips for parents](#). Help children express their feelings by taking the time to ask them questions, listen, and then help them process by pointing out safeguards and what to do in an emergency.

We send sincere condolences to the families, victims and everyone affected by this tragedy. As a district, we will continue our commitment to student safety and creating an environment where our students feel safe going to school. The greatest tool we have lies in the voice of students, staff and parents of this region. Be aware of what you see, talk with children, and maintain open communication when you notice something unusual in and individual's behavior or action. It is important that we – schools, families, and communities – continue to work together to prevent such incidents.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Tousley, FEAS Superintendent

Enclosure: one page NASP flyer

*Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day*