



Jefferson County Schools School Safety Public Forum


April 3, 2018

How Parents Can Help

Tonight we have talked about the importance of positive relationships for our students in the school setting. We also want to have those positive relationships with our parents and community. Parents, you can help us prevent violence in the school by talking to your children at home and working with us to watch for signs of concern.

Here are some steps that we encourage all parents to do:

1. With Our Schools:

- a. Take an active role in your children's schools. Talk regularly with teachers and staff. You are welcome in our schools and are a vital part of your child's success in learning. We ask that you be a partner with us.**
 - b. Let us know if your child is struggling with issues that impact his wellbeing in the schools. If a child is dealing with difficulties in his or her life that impact into his school day, a school counselor or teacher can often help.**
 - c. Talk with your children about telling an adult – Administrator, Teacher or Counselor - if they see or hear anything of concern regarding the safety of others during the school day. See something – say something. In most cases before a student acts violently, he will tell someone. We want to empower our students to care and watch out for one another.**
 - d. Help us know what is important to you regarding school safety. Participate in school climate surveys each fall , and share your concerns.**
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2. At Home:

- a. Listen to and talk with your children regularly. Find out what they're thinking on all kinds of topics. Create an opportunity for two-way conversation. If you become aware of any school threat or harassment, contact the school administrator.**

- b. Communicate clearly on the violence issue. Explain that you don't accept and won't tolerate violent behavior. Discuss what violence is and is not. Answer questions thoughtfully. Listen to children's ideas and concerns. They may bring up small problems that can easily be solved now, problems that could become worse if allowed to grow.**

- c. We all have times of conflict with others. Help your children learn how to examine and find solutions to problems. Children who know how to approach a problem and resolve it effectively are less likely to be angry, frustrated, or violent. Take advantage of "teachable moments" to help your child understand and apply these and other skills.**

- d. Discuss punishments and rewards in advance. Disciplining with framework and consistency helps teach self-discipline, a skill your children can use for the rest of their lives.**

- e. Insist on knowing your children's friends, whereabouts, and activities. It's your right. Make your home an inviting and pleasant place for your children and their friends; it's easier to know what they're up to when they're around. Know how to spot signs of troubling behavior in kids - yours and others.**

- f. Being a parent in today's society is not easy. Join with other parents, through school and neighborhood associations, religious organizations, civic groups, and youth activity groups. Talk with each other about parenting issues, violence problems, concerns about youth in the community, sources of help to strengthen and sharpen parenting skills, and similar issues.**

- g. Monitor social media sites, apps and video games. Work with your cell phone company to learn parental controls. Require cell phones and electronic devices to be turned off and unavailable to students at night.**

- h. If you do choose to keep firearms at home, ensure that they are securely locked, that ammunition is locked and stored separately, and that children know weapons are never to be touched without your express permission and supervision.**

3. In the Event of a School Emergency:

- a. Follow the instructions provided by the One Call, JCS Website, radio and/or television news.**

- b. You will be given updated information as quickly and as often as possible. *Please be patient* as this will most likely be a chaotic time for all of us.**

- c. You will be given information on where, when and how to reunify with your children. Bring a required picture identification to pick up your child.**

d. If your child has received injuries and taken to a hospital, someone will be at the reunification site to give you that information.

Please remember we love and care for your children. They are our children too. Thank you for working with us and being here tonight.