



## Tuscumbia City Schools

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February 23, 2018

The tragedy in Florida is weighing heavily on our minds. I would like to share some thoughts that the Tuscumbia City Schools and the Tuscumbia Police Department have for our students and staff. I would also like to share some thoughts on how each of you can help.

The following factors are strong safety components in Tuscumbia City Schools:

- The Tuscumbia City School administrators are committed as a safety leader in his or her respective school.
- The level of preparedness and commitment of resources to school safety.
- Thoughtful and detailed response plans are in place that have been developed with the assistance of law enforcement and county resources (EMA).
- A positive working relationship between the school system and the Tuscumbia Police Department.

The Tuscumbia Police are our committed and effective partners in developing comprehensive safety plans and help us implement them effectively. The response from police when we need their assistance is phenomenal. With these three foundational factors in place, we are always looking for ways to improve our practices and we will continue to make improvements. Those improvements will be in addition to the many processes and protocols already in place.

I also ask each of you to reflect on how you can partner with us in this critical area. Here are some things all adults can do:

- If you are aware of anything or anyone who represents a threat to school safety, let someone know. That may be the police, a school counselor, or a school administrator, but please act. Don't be the person who forever regrets not speaking up to prevent a tragedy.
- Talk with your own children about how important it is for them to speak to an adult (you or someone at school) if they see or hear something that causes them to be fearful or concerned.
- If your children are having trouble processing the media attention on school violence, ask your school's counselor for help.
- If you are in control of weapons, please be sure they are secure and do not fall into the hands of someone who should not have them.
- If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about security at your child's school, contact the principal. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions about security at the district level, contact me. We will respond as promptly as we can.

Together I believe we can strike the right balance between taking the appropriate actions to promote safety while still having schools that provide the nurturing learning environments we all want for our children. Thank you for your help and support in this critical effort.

Sincerely,

  
Darryl Aikerson  
Superintendent  
Tuscumbia City School