



February 20, 2018

Dear St. Lucie Public Schools Parents and Guardians:

As a District, our top priority is providing a safe environment for your children at school, and we understand and appreciate the value for you as partners in education to stay informed about the on-going efforts to maintain safe campuses across our District.

Listed below are several safety measures currently in place designed to safeguard students, staff, and visitors as well as to affect positive student learning in the classroom. We are proud to have Chief Brian Reuther (Port St. Lucie's former Police Chief) leading St. Lucie Public Schools (SLPS) Security Department, and we have strong partnerships with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Fort Pierce Police Department, and Port St. Lucie Police Department.

- **School Resource Officer (SRO) Program:** SLPS has strong partnerships with local law enforcement agencies. 29 officers and 3 supervisors are assigned to the schools full time.
- **School Security Team:** SLPS Security Team consists of ten additional trained law enforcement officers who work in collaboration with community agencies to support campus safety.
- **Emergency Training:** Each campus conducts training and a minimum of two Code Red drills plus a variety of other emergency drills throughout the year in order to prepare students and staff for emergencies ranging from weather alerts to campus intruders. *SLPS has conducted over 80 Code Red drills and trainings already this year.
- **Security Camera System:** All campus sites have recording capabilities, and additional cameras have been installed to increase coverage on campus sites and annex facilities throughout the District.
- **Controlled Access:** Locking mechanisms on all schools aid in monitoring visitor access into campus.
- **Perimeter Fencing:** Installation of fencing on campuses with open access provide defined entrance and egress to aid security measures.
- **School Messenger:** Mass notification system for emergency contact. *It is vitally important for parents and guardians to maintain/update their contact information in Skyward. Incorrect phone numbers or disconnected phone numbers hamper communication. (If you do not remember how to update this information in Skyward, please contact your child's school.)
- **Visitor Screening:** Raptor System - registers and screens campus visitors for a variety of information including Registered Sexual Offenders data.
- **District Identification Badges:** SLPS staff prominently display district ID badges when on school campuses or other district sites.
- **School-Based Communications Systems:** New radios and replacement radios have been added to school based radio systems along with radio signal repeaters.

It is also critical to talk to your children about the responsible use of social media postings. Threats are NO joking matter and can have serious, long-term implications including criminal records and jail time. Anyone who makes a threat will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

SLPS will continue to improve facilities, refine practices and continue training with the expectation of being ever vigilant. Of course, the safety of our children is everyone's responsibility, and we always encourage students, staff and community members to immediately report any concerns or suspicious activities to law enforcement officials or call Treasure Coast Crime Stoppers at 800-273-8477 to remain anonymous. You can also report this information to administrators or teachers.

If you see something, say something!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Wayne Gent".

E. Wayne Gent
Superintendent