

Message from the Superintendent - March 2018

Nationally school safety

The safety of our community's children and adults is always our highest priority. Tragically, we have recently mourned the loss of innocent student and teachers' lives. In these times, social media amplifies personally moving messages and creates a space for anger, threats, and hate to flame.

In the last few years we have made schools more safe by securing entrances and monitoring access, using surveillance cameras to assure safe practices, heightened scrutiny of social media and all forms of communication around threatening and harassing messages, conducted safety drills, and most importantly ask students to let us know if they do not feel safe, let someone know.

In the next few weeks, school principals will be speaking with staff and subsequently students about safety in light of this most recent school shooting and threats.

Every day we provide a free, equitable public education for all our children. We are being strained, though, by these attacks on our schools. Our young people are a part of a culture moved by fear, terror, agonizing personal tragedy, and a 24/7 media and social network. It is a lot for young people to handle. For most of us, just facing the pains of growing up, learning about the world around us and our place in it, consumes us and is a challenge.

In the rush of tragic stories and heavy hearts and as we absorb the meaning of these losses in our community and our nation, we will keep our schools safe for our children to grow and become successful citizens in their communities, country and world. The African proverb, "it takes a community to raise a child" needs to be a point of reflection for all of us. Gandhi advocated for us to "be the change we want to see in the world".

As a community, we must preserve the opportunity for our children to grow towards their own sense of identity and the meaning they create for themselves in this our American democratic experiment. School safety is a must for our children to be able to learn. School safety is the door we must never close as we accomplish our most fundamental mission: the cultivation of learning, and the value of an educated person appreciative of a diverse, well-rounded worldview.

Working with you to keep our schools safe.

Jerry Wilson