



Tim Forson
Superintendent of Schools

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www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

August 31, 2020

SCHOOL BOARD

Beverly Slough
District 1

Tommy Allen
District 2

Bill Mignon
District 3

Kelly Barrera
District 4

Patrick Canan
District 5

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The St. Johns County School District (SJCS) is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for your child. Each St. Johns County school has an Emergency Operations Plan with incident specific procedures that is reviewed and practiced regularly. These plans have been formulated using Federal Emergency Operations Agency and Department of Education recommendations that conform to federal, state and local guidelines. Our school district also works closely with local public safety officials using their expertise and input. Regular safety, health, security and fire inspections take place each year in all schools. All schools have been designated as shelters to be used in the event of a hurricane or other emergency requiring temporary shelter. Each school has a Safety Committee and Threat Assessment Team as well, that meet regularly to discuss issues of safety and security.

As prescribed in Senate Bill 7030, Active Assailant Response drills will be conducted each month. Principals and St. Johns Sheriff's Office (SJSO) Youth Resource Deputies (YRDs) will also meet with students and have age appropriate discussions focusing on Active Assailant Response procedures, the "Always Rules" and Safe Zones in the classrooms. In addition, we will practice fire, tornado, AED response and bomb threat drills for all faculty/staff and students throughout the year. In light of the COVID-19 requirements with social distancing, many emergency drills will be conducted through discussing school safety scenarios in lieu of active responses to reduce mass gatherings. Drills will start in mid-September to include a safety video from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. This video can be viewed at <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolservices/safety/>.

YRDs are assigned at each school for emergency response situations, as well as facilitation of required training, drills, and participation on the school's Threat Assessment Team. Some schools across the district will have an armed security officer present throughout the entirety of the school day. All armed security officers have successfully completed Guardian training facilitated by the SJSO as outlined in Senate Bill 7030.

Visitor and volunteer sign-in procedures are required in each school and all schools use the Keep 'N Track sign-in system. We require all visitors and volunteers to sign in and wear badges when visiting the school. All visitors and volunteers must submit a School Access Application in which a background check by the SJSO and a 50-state sexual offender check is completed before applicants are approved for school access. As a result of COVID-19, volunteer and visitor access will be limited for at least the first nine weeks of the 2020-2021 school year.

To communicate with parents in a crisis, our mass communication system, SchoolMessenger, is used. This system provides instant telephone, text and email communication and can be used for emergency, community outreach, special events and other school/district messages. In order to receive text messages you must opt in. Please visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/> for instructions.

If at any time you have concerns about the safety of your child or issues concerning safety or security, please call the school.

Sincerely,

Paul Abbatinozzi
Senior Director for School Services

*The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning
in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.*