



Warren Consolidated Schools

Creating Dynamic Futures through Student Achievement, High Expectations, and Strong Relationships

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www.wcskids.net

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.
Superintendent

February 26, 2018

Dear WCS Community,

As our nation and community seeks to comprehend the latest tragedy in south Florida, the important issue is how we protect and support our children in our schools. Students who feel supported and connected at school do better academically and socially and are less likely to engage in violence as a means of gaining attention or striking back.

Helping Students Feel Connected

A common factor in school tragedies is that a student has felt alone, bullied, or abandoned. At WCS, we work hard to connect our students through activities within the fine arts, athletics, after school clubs, school dances, and field trips. Each of these activities is intentionally anchored by strong relationships between our teachers and support staff and our students.

When students, teachers or staff members observe an individual student who needs assistance, we seek to intervene with intentional support. WCS has a professional team of counselors, psychologists, and social workers providing counseling, managing proactive programs like restorative justice, and offering daily assistance to students. Should students and families be uncomfortable speaking to school personnel about issues of concern, the state sponsored anonymous tip program OK2SAY is also encouraged and available at any time.

Over the past several years, we have developed and enhanced an information portal on our district website at wcskids.net. If you have not visited this site, please do so. The portal has great information regarding how to discuss and provide support to your children before, during, and after difficult situations.

Community Connections

On a related note, when a tragedy like south Florida occurs, many different community partners and agencies come forward to offer recommendations and assistance to schools. While very much appreciated, we want our parents and community to know that WCS is at the forefront of school safety and crisis management.

Through the community's recent support of our 2016 Bond issue, all Pre-K-12 schools have state of the art, high-tech cameras that provide real time access. Also, all WCS school buses have multiple cameras

installed, providing an additional layer of support. In addition, every Pre-K-8 building is equipped with secure, single point entrances to the school.

WCS has an Office of Security and Crisis Management with a director who has one job: Manage all aspects of school safety from daily crisis response to long-range prevention and planning, while working closely with our emergency partners (police, firefighters, and EMS) in Warren, Sterling Heights, and Troy. The director works with the trained police officers from Warren and Sterling Heights that the district employs. These officers are employed full-time within our high schools, and also provide assistance to every district facility.

District Readiness

Every school day begins with a status report from the WCS Office of Security and Crisis Management to central administration. This report details any potential issues in our schools and community and allows us to be proactive in responding to areas of concern.

At WCS, training for school safety is active and ongoing. We train with our first responders so we both understand how to engage should an emergency arise. Our first responder partners have school blueprints that provide them with comprehensive knowledge of school layouts along with 24-hour access to our buildings in the event of an emergency.

As we engage in state required crisis response drills for fire, tornado, and shelter in place, security and crisis procedures are continually reviewed to include the latest research and best practices. When new research emerged identifying that the “shelter in place” strategy was not always effective, the district responded by having key administrators and school police officers trained in the latest school safety best practices. In fact, a few weeks prior to the south Florida tragedy, our entire administrative team received the initial steps in this training with additional training for staff and students being coordinated in our schools.

Looking Ahead

If you have any questions, concerns, or something just does not seem right, please contact WCS Director of Security and Crisis Management Brent Bott at 586-698-4110. The Board of Education, the leadership team, teachers and staff members truly care about the well-being and safety of our students.

Please know that my own children attended Warren Consolidated Schools. This is a place where we work hard to build positive relationships with our students. We want them to feel comfortable sharing difficult information with the adults in their lives. Thank you again for all of your support. Together, we continue to create strong, safe schools where a quality education equips every child to succeed!

Sincerely,



Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.
Superintendent