

Middle School Parents,

Events that have occurred in recent weeks have many people thinking about school safety concerns and student needs. I want to provide you additional information regarding the ongoing efforts to address these concerns and needs.

### **Building Safety Plan**

- The building safety plan is reviewed at least annually by the administration to make updates. There are procedures to address situations that involve evacuating the building and/or property, severe weather events, intruders and other situations.
- I attended an emergency planning training in January in order to assist with further review and development of the district and building safety plans.
- Middle School teachers and principals reviewed their safety roles together last Thursday.

### **Drills**

- Evacuation and severe weather drills are conducted multiple times each semester.
- Lockdown drills are practiced once each semester. Lockdown drills are practiced in a manner that clearly indicates it is a drill taking place, and students have the opportunity to ask their teacher questions. A lockdown drill will take place sometime within the next two weeks.

### **Student Needs**

- Many staff have been trained to recognize students that may need support from a counselor. This has occurred through Kognito training and Mental Health First Aid training.
- We use the Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe framework when teaching students expectations.
- The Second Step curriculum is taught by teachers throughout the school year.
- A “sensory area” has been created that helps support students experiencing anxiety.

### **Facilities**

- We know that there are areas in a school that need monitored. The district has a repair ticket system that administrators use to report any unsafe conditions that need the attention of the maintenance department. This allows for repairs to be addressed quickly.

- The district utilizes the Raptor visitor screening system in each of the school buildings.

Student safety is more than information points. It also includes our efforts to build a culture in which people, including students, continue to speak up when they have concerns, so those concerns can be investigated and addressed. It is one in which students aren't afraid of "telling on" a friend that has said something that worries them. They understand that they are actually helping the other person by speaking up.

I hope that this information has given you some comfort in knowing that the safety of your kids is very important to the staff, and we are doing everything that we currently know to do to maintain and improve our efforts.

Sincerely,

Annette Jauron, Principal  
Indianola Middle School