



DERRY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Eric P. Curry
Assistant Superintendent

Cheryl A. Walters
Superintendent

Joseph A. Koluder, Jr.
Assistant for Business Affairs

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The unfortunate tragedies in Florida last week have once again shed a frightening light on the topic of school safety. I'd like to take a moment as a school administrator and the parent of a high school senior, to share with you that Derry Area School District is continually reflecting on the practices and the plans in place to respond to not only an active shooter but many other emergency situations.

The DASD administration, local and state law enforcement, fire, EMS, etc. meet regularly to review our plans and update them with recommended "best practices". Our teaching staff has received a variety of trainings on ways to respond in the event of a threatening emergency. They include ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) and INPAX which teaches our staff to identify warning signs of potential violence and the immediate responses to intercede. In fact, the DASD has invested in INPAX to the point that we now have teachers certified as INPAX trainers. We will continue to review, practice, and train our staff so that we are prepared to respond in the best way possible to protect the well-being of our students. Additionally, we provide opportunities monthly for drills with our students. These drills can and do focus on a variety of emergency situations including weather, intruder, fire, etc.

Additional supports are available to our students and families via our guidance offices and school based mental health programs. Each building in the district supports a robust Student Assistance Program which focuses on the "whole" student both educationally and emotionally. The DASD also contracts with EXCELA Health to provide a school based mental health provider on campus. These programs are available as a support to our students during times of need. You may reach out to the programs by contacting your child's school guidance or administration office.

Finally, and of equal importance, is the reporting by students, parents and community members of potential threats or comments made via social media or stated person to person. Please speak with your children and remind them of the importance of reporting concerning information they may hear or see on social media with a sense of urgency and in a timely manner. A safe-school's hotline is available at all times for students, parents, and community members to anonymously report information of concern. Reports may be made at 1-800-418-6423, ext 359 or at <http://www.safeschoolhelpline.com> or by contacting the DASD administration directly.

Highest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric P. Curry', written in a cursive style.

Eric P. Curry

Assistant Superintendent