

CDSB Statement Regarding Safety and Security Measures (July 2023)

At CDSB, we take the responsibility of student and staff safety very seriously. To that end, please know that our teachers, support staff and administrators are trained as part of our safety plan that pertains to every school building.

Safety protocols are in place in each of our district buildings and throughout each and every classroom. We consistently evaluate and refine all safety procedures to make sure we are exhaustive in our efforts to prevent a tragedy.

In support of our comprehensive safety protocols and evaluations, we access the expertise of the members of the CDSB Department of Safety and Security (DSS) and interface routinely with local law enforcement personnel to review our plans, inspect our facilities, and help support our drills.

The following measures are currently in place throughout the District:

- All buildings have secured vestibules
- All buildings have a single point of entry during the day.
- All visitors must show identification upon being admitted to the schools and must report directly to the main office.
- Classroom doors remain locked during the school day.
- Ongoing staff training on enhanced measures and protocols relating to intruder and active shooter drills are routinely repeated.
- All staff must wear an identification badge and visitors must go through a verification process at all of our schools under the School Gate Guardian System;
- Utilization of interior and exterior cameras to monitor and record video surveillance for every building as well as video cameras on our school buses;
- Threat/Risk Assessments conducted by school psychologists and counselors when we have concerns about students, including students who are believed to have communicated threats; and,
- A continually evolving safety plan for professional learning for staff dedicated to school and student safety

The Central Dauphin School District community, working together, is far safer than working in isolation. To support the school district's efforts and to remain vigilant as a greater school community we ask that you:

Be sure that updated emergency contact information exists in our parent portal section of Blackboard.

Listen to your children and take any concern seriously. Encourage your entire family to report any concern that they may have to you, the school district, or law enforcement. Reporting concerns matters.

Manage your student's electronic life and social media the same you would the other aspects of their life.

Report suspicious behaviors to the proper authorities immediately and encourage your children to do the same.

Emphasize that it is OK to seek help for themselves or others. In fact, doing so aides the entire community in becoming more safe and secure. If a social media post raises red flags, be sure to take a screenshot of it to share with the proper authorities and tell your child not to forward it to others.

Talk with your children about civility, respect and appropriate discourse. Acknowledge that we live in a society with many deeply held and diverse viewpoints which can sometimes be at odds. At school, we strive to teach students to respectfully disagree when voicing their opinions and values.

Model the type of behavior we expect from our kids. Be civil. Verbal attacks (in person or online) only polarize; respectful and appropriate discourse can help reduce feelings of anger and isolation that can lead to violence.

Talk to your child about personal safety and reinforce how to recognize danger signals. Schools continue to be very safe places to learn and to work. Yet it is important for all adults in our children's lives, including all school employees and parents, to work together and to reassure our children that safeguards are in place to provide a safe environment for learning in our schools.

We appreciate the help and guidance you have provided and continue to provide your children. We have an amazing community in the Central Dauphin School District.

It is a strong and caring environment for children and families. We must work together to preserve that, even as tragedies arise throughout the nation.

Finally, please know that we have wonderful staff dedicated to supporting you and your family. It is so very important that we work together as a community to ensure the well-being and safety of all.

Central Dauphin School District remains committed to protecting the safety of all our students and staff through planning, preparation, and vigilance. If you have any specific concerns, as always, please feel free to contact your student's principal.

Dr. Norm Miller, CSDS Superintendent