

School Safety Is Our Top Priority

Updates on new security measures in place throughout the school system

by Dr. Walt Griffin

As the new 2018-2019 school year rolled in, we implemented a variety of new technologies to go above and beyond all Florida state requirements with regard to student safety. With school safety and security director Captain Rick Francis leading new security efforts, we wish to ensure that all parents, students, and faculty know campus safety is an utmost priority for the district. Prevention, response, communication, and coordination should be at the core of our efforts, so we will continue to conduct school threat assessments and wraparound training that include mental health, visitor-management systems, and school safety updates.

Seminole County Public Schools have also utilized new technology to continue to improve communication efforts throughout all our campuses and offices. With our Raptor Emergency Management System, for example, teachers are instantly connected to their class rosters to account for their students and help incident managers to seamlessly track the status and location of every individual. Raptor helps to make the parent reunification process efficient by providing quick guardian validation and student release tracking. The program also provides easy access to

emergency operating procedures and after-incident reporting.

In addition, we recently partnered with Mutualink to bring Wi-Fi 911 systems to several schools in the district. By doing so, first responders have the ability to activate wireless school video footage during an emergency situation. The systems also connect radios between responding agencies to have clear coordination. High schools across the district have also implemented targeted PSAs, posters, and videos to help spread safety messages to students and their families. Parents at the secondary level (middle and high) can now register their child's cellular phone within our Skyward Family Access System, a school management software that has the capacity to send out urgent messages regarding school emergencies in real time in order to keep students updated with instructions as needed.

Families at Altamonte Elementary are piloting PikMyKid, an innovative app that streamlines the dismissal process. Parents can make pick-up changes right from their phone. In return, the app automatically notifies them of their child's status and dismissal, as well as delays or emergencies, through their connection to the teacher's



iPad. Administrators use PikMyKid to keep a bird's-eye view of all students.

We have also made further effort to increase police officer presence on all campuses through our Feed a Cop program. Last year, more than 1,800 meals were served to law enforcement officers who stopped by our campuses to enjoy lunch with our students. This program not only helps students build further bonds with our law enforcement officers, it also helps the officers become more familiar with our school campuses in the event they need to respond to an emergency.

Through these extensive efforts, we strive to keep our schools safe and ensure the security of all our students and faculty members.



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