



Burkeville Independent School District
Dr. Brant Graham, Superintendent of Schools

231 CR 2099
P.O. BOX 218
BURKEVILLE, TX 75932
PH: 409-565-2201, option 6
FAX 409-565-2012

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To Our Students, Parents, Staff, and Community

The recent tragedy in Florida, and events closer to home, remind us all of the importance of safety and security in schools. While we pray for the best, I want to take this time to assure you all that we do plan and prepare for the worst. Our reality is the same as every other school in our nation. If someone wants to harm our children, and us, they can. We all must work together to do our best to make it extremely difficult for any threats to be carried out in Burkeville.

I have met with students, parents, and concerned community members in the last week and they all have the same concerns. Basically, the concern is that we need to protect our children and do everything we can to increase our preparedness. I agree.

We want to assure our families that our district has an updated emergency operations plan. We continue to work with our county sheriff's department and to that we want to thank them for their never ceasing willingness to partner with us. Sheriff Rowles reached out personally last Friday, just to check on us. We all learn, share, and grow together.

The members of our staff have been trained on the specifics of our emergency operations plan and we continue to conduct periodic drills to ensure that everyone knows their role in a crisis. Our plan and drills cover a multitude of situations and are above and beyond the requirements. Just yesterday morning, a parent reported that her third grader knew exactly what to do when she questioned her. That's a good report, but we still have work to do and, we need your help.

Next Tuesday, 2/27/2018, we would like to take an opportunity to visit with the community regarding safety and security. We will host a public meeting, with the board of trustees, a quick review of our current programs will be followed by a discussion of the possibility of additional security programs. This discussion will include options such as school security officer(s), school police, school marshals, and school guardians. We would like your feedback. This public meeting will begin at 6:15 pm. We hope to see you there.

When it comes to our children, we all hurt when they do. Thank you all for your continued cooperation and dedication to ensuring the safety of our children. It remains our highest priority.

You all are important to me, and I am blessed to lead our district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brant Graham