

NOKOMIS REGIONAL HIGH

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February 26, 2018

Parents and guardians:

Recent events have caused many of us around the country to discuss school security and the safety of our students. There is nothing more important than the safety of our students. This month, our administrative team has been discussing school safety and recently attended a training session. Last week, I met with our facilities manager and Newport Police Department. This week, I am meeting with our staff to review roles and responsibilities and to update our plans and procedures. I am writing to keep you informed and share what you can do to keep our students safe.

There are two visible changes parents and students need to know about. First, we currently have a double-door entry system where one of the exterior doors has been unlocked. Until further notice, the exterior doors will be locked during the day. Please use the call button to the right of the door to be cleared for entry. Second, we have regularly practiced fire drills; however, we will now be adding regular lockdown drills and shelter-in-place drills. A "Shelter-in-Place" limits the access to and movement in our building, but classes continue. It is to be used when there is a threat somewhere in the community. There is not a threat directed at the school or in close proximity to the school, but it is sensible to increase the level of security. However, during a "Lockdown," we would completely secure the building. Students and staff would move to areas that can be locked, with the intent to limit or eliminate the visibility of room occupants. People are directed to remain quiet, with no movement, and a call is made to law enforcement to clear the facility.

Parents, you too, are part of our safety plan and there are several things you can do to help keep our students safe:

- **"See Something, Say Something"** The most common element in past incidents is that someone knew something before the event happened. Please report concerns--call the school, call the police--let people know right away!
- **Talk to your student** and reinforce, "See Something, Say Something." Students know what's going on with their classmates but sometimes worry about "telling." Stress the importance of communicating concerns.
- **Online Presence:** Monitor what your student is posting on social media and through their gaming platforms.
- **"Loose or Heat-of-the-Moment Comments"** School safety is not to be taken lightly. Threats will be taken seriously. If your student has joked about it, not taken it seriously or in the past has

“said things they didn’t really mean” in the heat of the moment, that must stop. Please stress how serious this is.

- **Be Patient with Us:** Our main office is a busy hub for our school. We will do our best to quickly screen people via the exterior call button for entry into the building and answer phone calls in a timely manner.
- **Identity Checks:** We know a good portion of our students’ families and guardians, but not all. Please be willing and ready to provide identification if asked.
- **Updated Contact Information:** We regularly use our automated call system to keep parents informed. Please make sure we have current phone numbers, mailing addresses, and emergency contact information.
- **Attendance:** It’s important that we confirm who is at school on any given day, not just in an emergency situation. Please notify us ASAP if your child is absent.
- **How’s your temperature?** I know sometimes there are circumstances at school that can create tension. I absolutely want to work with parents and students to resolve issues; however, it puts the school, staff and even students at risk when “heated” adults come to school. Please wait until you are ready to calmly address your concerns so the focus can be on the resolving the problem and not on you as a safety threat.
- **In an emergency,** our Superintendent’s Office will provide parents information via the automated messaging system, including information on how/where to pick students up. Please do not tie up the phone lines by calling the school or add to the number of people in crisis by attempting to enter the school.
- **Ask Questions:** There are a few details of our plan that we do not make public. Feel free to call, email or meet with me to share concerns or ask questions.

I hope this information is helpful to you. I cannot stress enough how important your role in our plan is. Please take the time to review this list and have a serious conversation with your student. We all must work together to keep our Warriors safe.

Sincerely,



Mary Nadeau
Principal