March 8, 2018

Parents/Guardians of Hillsboro R-III Students,

I wanted to write to you today in an effort to keep you informed as to what we are doing as a district to keep our schools safe. Because student safety is our top priority, we are constantly reviewing our process and procedures while working to find innovative ways to make our schools as safe as possible. As many of you know we have heightened our focus areas to include more armed intruder drills with our students, we are having open conversations with our students about school violence, evaluating our school safety protocols, working to provide students access to mental health resources, just to name a few.

Tomorrow some of our administrators (including our Safety Coordinator and School Resource Officer) are attending the Jefferson County Safety Summit that is being coordinated by the Jefferson County School Superintendents. This meeting will include members from the offices of Jefferson County Sheriff, local Police & Fire Departments, First Responders, and various school district representatives. The focus will be on current school safety plans, evaluation process, with specific discussions on incident command, building safety procedures, campus safety methods, media staging locations, building video/safety security measures, technology connections, and reunification locations, among other topics of planned discussions.

In the coming weeks, our Safety Coordinator along with our SRO will also be attending the Center for Educational Safety Conference [https://www.mosba.org/ces/] in an effort to gain more insight through networking with other school officials on how to improve school safety standards.

With the passage of the bond issue last April, the district has a priority of improving the entrances to several of the buildings. The Primary, Elementary, and Jr. High will now have a similar main entrance access to that of our Intermediate building. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the hallways of the building without first going into the administrative office suite. The Board of Education has spent time discussing and will continue to evaluate other viable security options that might be available to the district.

In closing, as a father to three children, two of which currently attend Hillsboro Schools and my third is a graduate of HR-3, I understand that it is scary to trust the safety of your child to someone else. Please know that we are diligently working to make our schools as safe as we can. Our district is blessed with an amazing staff that I know will do everything possible to ensure the safety of your child.

Educationally,

Dr. Aaron D. Cornman
Superintendent of Schools

www.hsdr3.org
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