

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

Recent trends in school shootings have forced a universal review of safety protocols for virtually every school in the nation. Each school's practice and/or policies have been scrutinized with one common goal, "Safety for Students and Staff". During the past year, I have participated in numerous meetings with other Lincoln County school officials as well as county agencies and law enforcement. We all acknowledge that the attitude of "that will never happen here" is no longer a prudent strategy to believe. In lieu of this harsh reality, our staff will continue to pursue on-going training and drills to be as prepared as humanly possible in the event we have an intruder who wishes to do harm to people inside the building.

One of the concerns that I have had since assuming the Silex Superintendent position is the traditional practice of allowing all adults open access to the school building during the arrival window (7:30 – 8:00am). Having worked in several districts, bigger and smaller than Silex, I know that this is not a common "visitor access policy" among school districts in Illinois and/or Missouri! During a recent teacher's meeting, it was obvious that my concerns are also shared by many of our staff members. These concerns are valid and consequently, I am announcing that as of **Monday, Oct. 1, 2018**, we are planning to revise this practice with the following changes:

- Only Parents, Grandparents, and/or Guardians of PRE-SCHOOL OR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS will be allowed to accompany their children into the school building during the morning arrival time.
- If any parent wishes to, or needs to, speak to a child's teacher, we encourage them to call school ahead of time and schedule a meeting at an appropriate time. Before school starts is one of the most demanding and hectic times for our staff, so we appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Should a time-sensitive topic come up and you must speak to a teacher before school starts, please notify one of our staff members in the office area, and we will page the teacher to come to the office to meet with you.

- We do understand that some of our younger students may be very comfortable with the routine of being escorted into the building by a parent or guardian. We have quite a few teachers and staff actively monitoring the hallways during the "before school window of time". If you alert us that your student is not comfortable getting to his/her classroom alone, we will arrange for someone to help with their transition to the cafeteria or their classroom. We are confident that most of our students will adjust quickly.

Please feel free to contact me at [ddeets@silex.k12.mo.us](mailto:ddeets@silex.k12.mo.us) if you would like to discuss any concerns about this procedural change. We will continue to promote many opportunities and activities for our parents, grandparents, and community members to feel welcome coming into our buildings. Unfortunately, unplanned visits from adults walking through our hallways when all of our students are present are problematic for a variety of reasons. We appreciate your understanding for the need to change this visitor access practice.