

Dear Parents of Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public School Students,

In wake of the tragedy that occurred last week in Newtown, Connecticut I wanted to address what steps we have already taken to keep your student safe at school and answer any safety questions or concerns you may have about our schools. Statistically, schools are the safest places for students to be. That is the way it should be and we will continue to make our schools as safe as possible for our students, faculty and visitors.

At Pioneer Pleasant Vale Public Schools we have continually implemented school safety strategies over the years and are always looking for additional methods to ensure that our students, faculty and visitors are safe. Last year we installed cameras on the outside of all buildings so that we can monitor all entrances and exits as needed. Last week we finished installation of inside video cameras at the High School so that we can locate individuals anywhere on campus, inside or out, day or night. We also have policies and procedures in place in case of an intruder or suspicious person being in our school. In fact, the Garfield County Police Department and the Enid SWAT team have both conducted drills in our buildings within the last year, training for any incident possible at our schools. We also encourage county police officers to randomly visit our High School and Enid Police visit our Elementary Schools as much as possible when on patrol. All visitors are required to check in at the Principals office and our teachers and staff are trained to ask all unidentified visitors of their purpose for being in our school and escort them to the principal's office. Lastly, we are researching technology that would allow our buildings to be more secure and evaluating those programs against our unique layout of buildings and other potential hurdles that may hinder students more than help them. We will not stop researching ways to make our campuses a safer place to be.

Please know that our number one priority is your students' safety at our school. Our teachers and staff are trained and will react with your students' safety in mind. Moreover, we are currently installing a new parent notification system at all of our schools so that we can notify parents of any event that may arise in the future. This system can notify you by email, phone or text of any unexpected events, weather related school closings, changes to game times, school lunch balances, absences, etc. So if you have not updated your information please call the school today so that we can update your file. If you have any questions or further concerns about your students' safety at school please call your school principal or myself and we will try to answer any other questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Brent Koontz
Superintendent