



Old Fort Local Schools

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LAURA BRYANT, SUPERINTENDENT

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January 5, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I trust your holidays were filled with love, laughter, and lots of great memories with those who mean the most. We are happy to welcome students back to this new year and look forward to the great things that will take place in their lives in 2023! Please know that we consider it a privilege to walk through life with your child(ren). We understand that you entrust us each day with not only their education, but their safety as well.

As you know, recent events have highlighted issues surrounding school safety at Old Fort Local Schools. As well as things were handled by district staff last month, we continue to review safety protocols to identify areas for improvement.

In light of this reflection, I'd like to share an update with you on these safety-related initiatives.

1. **On Tuesday, January 17, 2023, we will have a Professional Development Day for all staff to review ALICE Training and other safety protocols. There will be no school on this day for PK-12 students.** Students of Vanguard/Sentinel and other out-of-district placements are free to attend their respective schools on this day; however, no district transportation will be provided in order to allow all bus drivers to attend the staff training. If students at Vanguard/Sentinel or other out-of-district schools are unable to attend due to the lack of transportation, we have confirmed that this will not negatively impact their attendance at their respective schools.

This PD Day will allow us to review active shooter protocols as well as participate in scenario-based practice in each building. We will also receive an update from the Seneca County Sheriff's Department, review verbal de-escalation techniques, make certain that staff are all on the same page in regards to expectations, and troubleshoot some of the challenges in our common areas. I hope you understand the urgency for us to refresh our staff on how to handle such situations for the safety of all present and to re-calibrate ourselves to ensure we are all being consistent with our behavioral expectations.

2. We continue to work with the Seneca County Commissioners and Sheriff Stevens to obtain a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the district. We are getting closer to seeing this become a reality. I had a very productive meeting again yesterday at the Commissioner's Office, and we are moving forward on finalizing the details of a contract for a full-time SRO for the district which we hope to have in place soon.



3. At the end of January, the Ohio School Safety Center will be in the district to conduct a Security & Vulnerability Assessment. A Vulnerability Assessment is a systematic review of security weaknesses. It evaluates where the buildings are susceptible to any known vulnerabilities, assigns severity levels to those vulnerabilities, and makes recommendations for remediation to address the identified areas. This process will give us valuable feedback as we look to improve building security at both campuses, on school transportation, at extra-curricular events, etc.

Although we cannot anticipate every possibility that could happen within our buildings, we can certainly take proactive steps to address environmental and scheduling challenges that may set us up for problems. At this point, all conversations are on the table. If you see areas, times of day, procedures, etc. which you feel pose safety concerns or are counterproductive in our efforts, please feel free to email me at lbryant@oldfortschools.org. We value your input, as you are important eyes and ears of our district. These ideas will help guide our conversations as we implement immediate changes and look to continue improvements into next year as well.

As always, we appreciate your continued support of the district and our efforts to keep safety as one of our highest priorities. Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

With Children at Heart,

Mrs. Laura F. Bryant

Mrs. Laura F. Bryant, Superintendent

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