

To: Murray Avenue Families
From: Jennifer A. Dilks, Principal
Re: Safe Schools Information
Date: August 2016

Listed below is information about procedures related to maintaining a safe and secure environment for our students and staff members. Thank you in advance for your compliance with these procedures and for your continued support of our schools.

Visiting Our School

Visitor Procedures: Visitors to our school must state the reason for their visit to the school greeter before entering the lobby area. Visitors who do not have a scheduled appointment or a specific reason to be visiting the school are not permitted to enter. This is helpful information to know before coming to the school. Visitors must wear their visitor badges in plain view at all times while in the building. Family members who are dropping off student personal belongings are permitted to drop belongings in the lobby area.

Speed Limit on District Property:

The speed limit on district property is 15 mph at the High School and 10 mph at Pine Road Elementary School. Speed limit and parking in appropriate locations is enforced by the Lower Moreland Township Police Department.

Clearances for Volunteers and Chaperones:

There have also been recent changes to state law and board policy related to volunteers in our schools. Volunteers are essential to our schools and help to keep students safe on class trips, assist teachers in classrooms, and provide special events for our students. There is an important memo with details about how to remain on the District Approved Volunteer List and how to get on this list if you are interested in volunteering on the Virtual Backpack. Please be advised that clearances take time to get so plan in advance if you want to volunteer.

School Climate

Anti-bullying Reporting Systems:

We want to remind students and families that we have a formal system to report bullying for staff, students, and parents. The reporting form is available to students in counselors' offices or the main office and for families on the website attached to the counselor web pages.

Anonymous reporting: Students may also report incidents of bullying or harassment anonymously through our bully box reporting system. Boxes are located on every floor of the building. Students can leave information in the boxes that will be investigated. Boxes are checked once a week. Anyone needing immediate assistance should talk to a counselor or principal.

Cyberbully Law: Title 18 – Cyber Harassment of a Child makes it possible for students who are found to be cyberbullying to be referred to the police and prosecuted. We will continue to educate our students about laws that can potentially impact them.

Safety and Prevention Measures

Safety Drills: This year we will continue providing updated training related to safety drills for our students and staff. Some of these updated protocols have been the outgrowth of current training with law enforcement after analysis has occurred of national events. Students and staff will be using updated lockdown procedures. In the past, lockdown procedures have been focused on having students and staff remain in locked classrooms. Current procedures include training on when to stay inside and when to leave an area to relocate to a safer location outside of the building. We follow a monthly drill schedule to help our students and staff become more comfortable with the updated procedures.

Canine Search Program: The Lower Moreland Township School District has the right to conduct random searches of school property (i.e. lockers, desks, and vehicles parked on school property). The purpose of these searches is to find or prevent controlled substances, weapons or other dangerous materials from being brought onto school property or into school activities. The School Board has implemented a canine search program under this policy at the High School and Murray Avenue School to help ensure the safety of our students. Searches also assist in identifying students who may be in need of early intervention.