

Kieleidoscope  
February 12, 2015

The topic of school safety has been the focus of many articles, discussions and media presentations over the past several years. News of school shootings and other violence in schools has required a high level of vigilance and the development of school safety plans to reassure our students and community that schools are safe.

The best way to prevent problems is to be prepared, plan ahead and practice the plans. The Kiel Area School District annually reviews the district-wide crisis plan that provides the details of action to be taken in an emergency situation. The Board of Education has also implemented district-wide policies that support the development of proactive and effective risk management programs. Our strong partnership with the Kiel Police Department and Chief Dave Funkhouser provides another safety and security advantage for the Kiel Area School District.

Our Board of Education recently approved the funding to update the district-wide video surveillance and key fob system. We have had the current surveillance system in our schools for the past twelve years. Technology has advanced greatly over the years and we believe that these updates will greatly improve our ability to provide a higher level of security and safety in our schools.

Cameras help us monitor the behavior of students and can be used to review situations when we are investigating student conflicts or other behavior problems in the school. The cameras also help to monitor visitors in the school.

Each one of our school buildings is locked during the school day. A video system with electronic locks is in place to allow visitors to enter the building after identifying themselves. The KASD policy states that visitors can only enter the building after being allowed in by the staff member assigned to security. Each visitor must register at the front office and wear a brightly colored badge when in the building. We strongly encourage visitors; however visitors need to be easily identified by our staff and students after being given permission to be in our buildings. Our visitor entrance procedures clearly define our policy on authorized and unauthorized visitor access.

All visitors are directed to one main entrance in each building where they identify their purpose for requesting entrance. Signs are in place providing appropriate procedures for access into the building beyond the office. Through policy, the administration can deny anyone access into our buildings, this is to protect our students and limit disruptions to the instructional day.

The safety of the children and adults in our buildings is paramount. For this reason we annually revise our plan, have mock drills and have surveillance systems in place. Working together with law enforcement, our community, our insurance company and our staff helps us to prepare and

plan ahead. We frequently monitor our plan, assess results and are open to modifications when necessary.

We believe that the safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. Our schools are safe places. Our goal is to keep them safe through updating our policies, procedures and equipment on a regular basis. If you have questions or suggestions please feel free to contact the building principal or me.