

CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 31, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In March, the school district convened a School Safety Task Force for the purpose of examining elements of our existing school safety plans along with best practices for safety and mental health across the region. Participants chosen for the Task Force included parents from all six schools, individuals who work in law enforcement, homeland security, the security field, teachers, support staff, administrators, and interested community members.

In May, the Task Force presented consensus short-term and longer-term school safety and mental health recommendations to the Board of Education. The Board of Education allocated \$370,000 in the 2018-19 budget to implement the recommendations and spent the next couple of months considering the recommendations that would be in place for the 2018-19 school year.

The first action that will be implemented in 2018-19 is the addition of another School Resource Officer (SRO) whose home base will be Clarence Middle School. Clarence will now have two SRO's, one based at CHS and the other at CMS, both of whom will also visit the four elementary buildings regularly.

The second action for the upcoming school year is the creation of a Family Support Center (FSC). The FSC will be housed in the middle school but will service students and families from all six schools. The FSC's purpose is to collaborate with school personnel, parents, students, community organizations, and area service providers to assess mental health needs and determine appropriate interventions.

The final action for implementation in 2018-19 involves enhanced entry procedures and building security protocols. Every school will have a monitor at the single point of entry during the school day who will check the identification of all visitors. Visitors will need to show a driver's license which will be scanned by our new T-Pass system and checked against a law enforcement database. The system will print a temporary photo ID badge for the visitor. The monitors can trigger an immediate message to the 911 system in case of emergency. In addition, the school district will have a new auto-call system that will allow parents to sign up for text message and e-mail message alerts. We are encouraging all parents to add cell phone and email information to our student information database through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Both the high school and middle school will not allow students to enter the buildings prior to 7:30 am. Students who enter after that time will be restricted to the supervised cafeteria area unless they have a club or organization meeting to attend. The high school will also lock the PE/Gym/Pool areas off from the rest of the building at 4:30 pm.

Building principals will send a letter to parents that provides more school specific details on the enhanced school security procedures. We recognize that our new procedures will be a change and may inconvenience community members as we make the transition. The safety and security of students is paramount and we believe the new actions will improve our existing protocols.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoffrey M. Hicks".

Geoffrey M. Hicks, Ed.D.
Superintendent