

Dear McCluer North Family,

We are writing regarding safety and security concerns that have been raised following the incidents of the last two weeks. We know that safety has to be our first priority. If students do not feel safe they can't learn, and if staff members feel unsafe a demanding job becomes even more challenging.

We have heard your request to address these issues with a meaningful, substantial, and lasting response. Below is a list of actions we are taking to increase your safety and the security of McCluer North High School. Some of the items will be in place immediately, and others will be implemented soon, while others will take longer to implement.

IDs

- All students should have a current, permanent ID or will receive one on Tuesday.
- Students may receive 5 temporary IDs per semester.
- All students must wear an ID while in the building or on the bus.
- Administration and staff who have first period prep/sixth responsibility will monitor IDs of students entering the building before first period.
- Every student will be required to show an ID before entering the building, or the student will be escorted by staff to secure a temporary ID prior to the start of first period.
- Teachers will ask students to show their ID each hour.
- Students participating in sports will be issued a sticker to affix to their ID. Stickers will be color coded by sports season.

Student Expectation Code

- The code prohibits wearing hats and hoods in school. This is not a fashion issue. This is a safety issue. Hats and hoods prevent staff and security from identifying individuals who do not belong in the building. Keeping your head and face visible makes North a safer place.
- Students will transition to clear book bags. Only clear book bags will be permitted beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

Facilities

- Students will only use door 1 and 17 to enter and exit the building beginning this week. Faculty may enter door 1 or 17.
- Door 1 will become the main entrance after student parking is adjusted. Buses will drop off and pick up in the St. Catherine lot.
- Students will only be permitted to use door 17 during bus arrival and dismissal. Walkers coming from the St. Catherine side may use door 17 during bus arrival and dismissal. Students arriving after the start of first period may only enter through door 1.
- All visitors will be directed to the main entrance at door 1.
- Alarms have been ordered and will be installed ASAP on all doors with the exception of doors 1 and 17 on the concourse. If a door is opened an alarm will sound until it is turned off by key.
- Alarms also will be installed on the annex doors.

- Alarmed doors will be marked “Emergency Exit Only, Do Not Open, Alarm will sound.”
- A security booth will be constructed near door 1 to better monitor individuals entering the building.
- Public Address system will be connected to the Annex to increase communication. (Equipment to be determined.)
- Facilities staff will study feasibility of switching the student center and main office.

Annex

- Edmentum and ATCOP will be moved to the annex, and health classes will be moved to the main building. This will result in 30-60 fewer students per hour exiting and entering the building. This also will eliminate students wandering the building if they arrive early or stay late for Edmentum or ATCOP.

Parking

- Very soon we will switch the student and faculty parking lots. All faculty will park on the St. Catherine lots.
- Students will park in the Waterford lot.
- Parent drop off and visitor parking will be in the Waterford lot.
- Parking lot entrances will have signage for visitor parking, student parking, staff parking, and main entrance.

Buses

- Bus drivers will be issued photo bus rosters to identify students who should be riding their bus.
- Bus drivers will report all students who board the bus without an ID to administrators immediately upon arrival at school.
- Staff with last hour prep/sixth responsibility will be asked to assist administration with bus supervision at dismissal.

Security

- An unfilled security officer position has been posted.
- A security officer will be assigned to the annex.
- Security officers will actively patrol the building throughout the school day.
- Security officers will check all restrooms every period to ensure no students are loitering or skipping and hiding. Officer will sign check sheet for verification.
- All visitors including parents must sign in with security.
- Security will issue all visitors temporary ID stickers to be worn while in the building.
- Security will contact an office professional, teacher, or other individual before sending parents or visitors to a location in the building.
- Visitors must sign out with security when exiting the building.
- Security and administration will sweep the building after dismissal. Unsupervised students will be directed to the exit and will not be permitted to remain in the building. Athletes or students involved in after school activities must be with an adult supervisor. Coaches travelling from another building will arrange for athlete supervision.

- Administration has communicated with Florissant Police and will collaborate on additional opportunities for police support.
- In addition to our Florissant School Resource Officer, Florissant Police will have an increased presence in the school and on the parking lots.
- Florissant police periodically may sweep the building with drug and weapons dogs.
- Security may use wands to check attendees at sports events for weapons.

Staff

- Teachers will be present at classroom doors before first period and during passing time.
- Counselors and social workers have prepared an advisement lesson to address students' emotional responses to these incidents.
- Administration will hold grade level assemblies to address safety and security issues.
- October 26 PBIS PD will begin with 30 minute session to follow up with staff regarding safety and security concerns.
- Teachers should report non-working phones to administration immediately.
- All staff should have a current ID. Any staff with an old ID should contact photoid@fergflor.org to arrange for a new ID.

Parent Involvement

- A safety and security team will be established and will conduct monthly meetings to address concerns and communicate messages to improve safety and security. This team likely will consist of students, parents, staff, and law enforcement.
- A safety town hall meeting to inform parents of safety updates and to hear parent concerns will be scheduled within the next two weeks.

As you can see, this is a lengthy list of security enhancements. As stated above, some of these actions will be implemented immediately. Others will begin in the near future, and others will require more time to complete. Additional communication will be forthcoming prior to implementing short and long term actions.

We know that no security measure is 100% foolproof. Our best safety precaution is still our people. Strong relationships between, students, teachers, staff, and administration are vital for our shared safety, security, and student success. We must continue to work together. We must work to build trust and clear communication. If we see or hear of an unsafe situation, we must have the courage to say something. If you are uncomfortable speaking to someone about a safety concern you may report anonymously any unsafe situation or rumors to a trusted adult or through our online reporting tool, www.psstworld.com. You can find a link on our school website or directly on the PsstWorld website. If you have a suggestion for improving safety and security or any other suggestion please use the Feedback button on the bottom of the school or district website. Open communication between home and school is important. We will keep you informed of any incidents that occur at school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andy Croley
Principal

Dr. Joseph Davis
Superintendent