



June 12, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As our school year comes to a close, we would like to recap the year as we focused intently on school safety and student welfare. As we have shared in the past, our plans for active shooter training began almost two years ago. It started by identifying and training our staff on national best practices for such events. Throughout the year we took this training step by step, ever increasing the capacity of staff to react in such a situation. This effort continued and expanded this month with an all staff simulation of an active shooter incident. We partnered with the Lower Pottsgrove Police Department, the Upper Pottsgrove Police Department, and the West Pottsgrove Police Department, as well as the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management. This was a realistic drill that further extended our teachers' training and real time problem solving skills. We have also been training our students on how to react to several of the response scenarios such as locking down in place and evacuation. These efforts will continue next year with further drills to create a mindset of action for our staff during such an event.

We have also concluded our first year with the Pottsgrove Safe Schools Partnership Committee. We had our final meeting of the year on May 30th and we celebrated our accomplishments and began formulating goals for next year. This year, the committee worked to improve our physical plant safety with walkie-talkie and radio upgrades, a district wide camera review and a comprehensive door numbering project that is vital to assist first responders in a response to any emergency.

Our focus on student health and wellbeing brought several important presentations to the District concerning opioid awareness. The first was a program designed for elementary aged parents and was called "Be Part of the Conversation". The second was a presentation designed for our middle school and high school students and parents called N.O.P.E. (Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education). The committee also focused on student engagement and building strong learning environments. We are planning on training our entire staff on methods to assist our students who may have experienced trauma in their lives. We hope to increase our capabilities to identify and connect with these students. Additionally, we will be exploring methods to reduce the effects of trauma should we experience a traumatic event within the district.

We wanted to share the recap of our year and assure you that these efforts were not a completion of our goals concerning school safety but, a starting point where we will remain vigilant and steadfast in creating the safest and healthiest learning environment we can.

We would like to extend to all our families a wish for a happy, healthy and productive summer. We look forward to working with our entire community next year on these all important initiatives!

Sincerely,

William R. Shirk Jr, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Robert P. Harney, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent