

Subject: Safety Procedures @ Ogden International

Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 4:16:53 PM Central Standard Time

From: Michael Beyer, Cara Kranz, and Stacie Chana (sent by Michael Beyer, Cara Kranz, and Stacie Chana)



Safety First

Dear Ogden families,

In light of the tragedy that happened today in Florida, some parents reached out asking how we ensure the safety of our students.

At the start of every school year, all faculty and staff receive training on safety drills. Procedures are shared, along with expectations for what documents such as rosters teachers should always have on hand. Even though this training happens every year, inevitably staff ask questions posed as "what ifs", challenging everyone to think deeply about how to maintain safety at all times, but especially during emergency situations.

During the first three months of school we practice safety drills with all students, faculty, and staff for evacuation, shelter-in-place, and lock-down situations (we do not call these 'active shooter drills, but the procedures are the same). After each drill we review how we did and how we can improve. There are district-wide protocol for safety and security guidelines that are constantly reviewed, revised, and practiced.

At Ogden East Campus, we have 150 high-definition security cameras, both internally and externally, from the parking garage to the roof, that can pan and zoom. This is one of the best systems in all of CPS. West Campus has a

system more typical of schools, with 30 cameras that are constantly monitored by a security guard.

Every Chicago Public School is directly tied to Chicago's Office of Emergency Management. All cameras can be monitored by security in their office on Madison street, where Chicago police officers and other first responders are housed, allowing for immediate coordination if an emergency occurs. Our security guard, Mr. Cesar Ravelo, received a promotion to join this office due in part because of how well Ogden has handled safety issues. Now he can continue keeping an eye on Ogden, but from the Madison Street location!

Along with access to cameras, the Office of Emergency Management has contact information of all school leadership, along with information on bell schedules, exits, and other critical information. This information is shared with all sister-agencies, such as the Chicago Police and Fire Departments.

Ogden has invested heavily in a system that allows our radios to communicate between both campuses. This required expensive digital radios and a transponder to link the two campuses. This allows instant communication so we can share information and track students if, for example, they don't show up on the middle school shuttle.

We have trained teachers but also students to never open side doors, even for other students and teachers. We require everyone to enter through the main door, which is monitored by a security guard. The side doors are constantly being watched via the cameras to ensure no one enters without permission.

We have had emergencies in the past. Two years ago a student scrawled a threat on a wall at West Campus. (This is the most common cause of lock-downs in schools across the country, and the CPD responds to similar threats on an almost daily basis at schools across the city, both public and private. Since Columbine there is not a single school that takes threats lightly.) We instantly went into lock-down mode, and the issue was immediately escalated to CPS Security. Because both campuses are close to downtown, CPD arrived in less than one minute. With the use of cameras we quickly identified which students entered the room during the known time frame, and the perpetrator was identified by comparing handwriting samples. The school was locked-down instantly, police arrived nearly immediately, and in less than one hour we had

identified who wrote a few words on a wall. Lastly, but just as importantly, the student began receiving the social and emotional support they needed.

We are very proud of our response to safety and security issues, and we take safety seriously, and we are constantly improving our procedures.

We hope this gives families confidence that we take security of the utmost importance. Your children are our children when they are at Ogden.

Sincerely,

Michael Beyer, Principal

Cara Kranz, Head of East Campus

Stacie Chana, Head of West Campus



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Dr. Michael Beyer, Principal

Mrs. Cara Kranz, Head of East Campus, grades K-5

Dr. Stacie Chana, Head of West Campus, grades 6-12



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