



Special Edition Communiqué TRAGEDY — SECURITY — SAFETY

Good Morning Midland Public Schools Students, Staff and Families:

Let us all take a moment this morning and have our thoughts and prayers go out to all who were affected by the tragedy at a Parkland, Florida, high school yesterday.

We are living in a violent time when mentally ill individuals are hurting people and taking lives on a way-too-regular basis.

Please join me in a call to action. We need to all turn our attention to keeping our students, our colleagues and ourselves safe.

MPS has always made safety and security in our schools a top priority. The Bond funds have allowed us recently to add a significant measure of security to each of our schools. We know these and all security measures can be inconvenient, but in the times we find ourselves, they are a crucial necessity!

As we all know, it can be easy to get complacent in our practices and attention to detail. Our secure entrances, video surveillance, security cards, emergency plans, practice drills, mental health trainings and liaison officers are essential and have improved our safety and security practices. However, nothing is more vital to our security than the thousands of MPS stakeholders keeping our ears and eyes open to possible security and safety issues and threats.

I ask all of us to pay close attention to our surroundings at all times. The ability to identify unlocked outside doors, uninvited building visitors and other violations of our safety protocol are essential and require all of us working together.

Please be observant of anyone who may appear to be distraught, depressed or in need of professional assistance. We can never prevent all tragedies, but we can reduce the likelihood of them occurring with increased diligence by all of us. If you see/hear/witness anything that you perceive as alarming, please communicate with a teacher, administrator, school counselor or with me at 923-5014 or via MPS Connect. <https://etc.midlandps.org/connect/form.php>. All MPS Connect messages come directly to me.

I continue to study and explore what school security experts are communicating as best practices in order to make our learning environments as safe as possible. Our administrative team members receive training and briefings on our school safety and security measures. Local law enforcement emergency services and school officials have been meeting monthly to work on school safety and emergency response.

Midland Public Schools will continue to evaluate and improve our school safety practices and emergency response procedures, but that is not enough. Security experts tell us that **all of our stakeholders working together is the key!** It will take all of us being ever diligent as we work together to continue to make school safety and security a top priority at Midland Public Schools!

Educationally yours,

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent



is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day. Click on the green MPS Connect box on our MPS website (www.midlandps.org) to connect with me!