



SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL

## Skyline School Safety

**Dear Skyline Parents,**

As you might recall from my previous E news (2.15.18), we as a staff continue to hold the Parkland, Florida students and staff in our hearts and minds. In part because I have heard from some of you and I imagine these things are on many hearts and minds, I wanted to share with all of you some of the safety work being done at Skyline. Safety of students and staff is most definitely one of our top priorities. Many of these items, in fact, apply to all our high schools. *Please note:* I will not be sharing some items (specific school documents outlining our detailed plans or internal codes, for example) that we truly believe should remain confidential and with staff *in order to* ensure school safety. Much like the password to any private home security system, once it's entirely public knowledge, it is no longer effective.

### **Physical Safety:**

1. We annually train all staff in our emergency procedures and drills, typically in August.
2. We run a whole day of drills for all students in September and continue monthly drills all school year including Run, Hide, Fight.

3. We have many security cameras around the building to help us monitor non-instructional spaces. In fact, I recently worked with our district office to have even more installed.
4. We have a full-time security officer.
5. We have a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO); his name is Officer Greiert.
6. I have recently worked with both our security officer and SRO to move their offices to a location we feel would provide even more sightlines to important parts of our school.
7. We dedicate one Assistant Principal each year to oversee all things safety related.
8. This year we trained all interested staff in emergency first aid and tourniquet use with the help of our SRO and our school nurse.
9. This year we have begun to lock more of our exterior doors in order to limit the overall access points and yet not inhibit students passing to and from our portables.
10. The PTSA generously helped us refresh and replenish our safety supplies with a grant they provided.
11. We discussed with all students on our Project Spartan day how to report any safety concern they might have to a trusted adult and we have always done this each fall. We very much value that our students do report their concerns and we continue to ask that you, their parents, thank them with us and for us and encourage them to continue to report.
12. We routinely cooperate with law enforcement and the Fire Dept. including allowing them access to the building to get to know all its ingress and egress points and anything else that will help them be successful in the event of any kind of emergency.
13. We also invite Eastside Fire and Rescue (EFR) to train all our sophomores on the impact of impaired and distracted driving annually. Every two years they do an additional training for our juniors that includes a crashed car, student actors who help to simulate a crash scene and multiple agency responses. The simulation is followed by a student conversation facilitated by our EFR trainers.

14. Friends of Youth has helped us by providing lessons on the neuro-science of addiction to all freshmen and has also offered parent education on the topic of substance use for us as well.

### **Social and Emotional Safety:**

Here are many of the interventions and programs we have created that support our students' well-being. We continue to monitor and adjust them as needed.

- A collaboratively written building goal focused on student well-being
- A full-time Mental Health Specialist, Summer Igaz
- 5 very committed Guidance Counselors
- A full-time school nurse and a full-time Health Room Para-professional
- Administrators who investigate any and all reports of harassment, intimidation and bullying following our district regulations and training for doing so <https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/bullying>
- Project Spartan—new this year! a collaborative ASB and staff effort to build community and connectedness; also generously supported by PTSA
- Regular Staff Learnings dedicated to building rapport with students and creating connectedness (growth mindset, self-regulation, anxiety)
- Staff learnings focused on Cultural Competency and how that competency can help us increase connectedness to students of all kinds
- ASB and SPTV collaborations that have resulted in segments designed to improve student to student and student to staff connections—look for “Humans of Skyline”
- District-wide staff trainings (both in-person and book studies) on cultural competence and positive behavior support among other topics
- Cultural Competency focus groups with our parents of all backgrounds—a collaborative effort with PTSA, ASB, certificated and classified staff and students
- Data informed decision making that includes the a school-wide survey conducted by Dr. Luthar of ASU, the state provided Healthy Youth Survey,

senior exit survey data, the data gathered from the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (see more on the second round of SDQ data gathering below) and more

- VOICE mentors
- Peer tutoring offered weekly by National Honor Society
- Other Peer Support programs—100 LINK Crew student mentors and 2 staff advisors for all freshmen + IB Buddies for all diploma candidates, transfer student breakfasts and more
- Incorporating student voice in our work—Graduation Committee, Cultural Competency Focus Groups and more
- Guided Studies class during the school day for freshmen needing additional support
- A full-time Graduation Specialist and Paraprofessional who provide additional academic support to 10<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> graders
- Digital Dignity lesson for all freshmen each fall
- Administrators monitor student attendance and pursue attendance interventions
- Encouraging involvement in athletics, clubs and activities, and the visual and performing arts

We will remain vigilant, tuned in to our students and community and creative as we find ways to achieve our educational mission and keep students safe. As we continue to monitor the health and well-being of our students, we wanted to let you know about our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire survey. Again, this is a brief, informative tool that helps us identify students who might need support and helps us to consider what kinds of support to offer.

**Details on our Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) survey for All Students**

The Issaquah School District continues its strong commitment to supporting our students through Positive Behavior and Social Emotional Support (PBSES). PBSES is a framework that employs evidence-based practices and multiple tiers of support to serve students through a continuum of care.

One of our PBSES practices at Skyline has been to identify proactively students who may require intervention. We have done this in a number of ways that we outlined earlier this year prior to administering the SDQ survey in the fall. Now that we are further into the school year, we will administer the SDQ survey one more time.

Students will be asked to complete a short, 25-item Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire during an in-class assembly schedule on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This survey is kid-friendly and used to gain insight about individual student emotional behavior and functioning. It identifies a student's personal strengths as well as challenges. It should also allow us to confirm and/or question the data we already have.

If you do not want your student to participate, please let our Graduation Specialist, Mat Taylor, know in writing [taylor@m@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:taylor@m@issaquah.wednet.edu) (an email is fine) by March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you opted your student out of the SDQ in the fall, then he or she will automatically be opted out this spring (please contact Mat Taylor to opt your student back in to the SDQ this spring). Thank you again for your continued support as we explore ways to support the emotional health of our students.

Thank you,

Donna Hood  
Principal

**What's happening outside of school?  
Check out the Community Fliers [electronic bulletin board](#).**

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