



Graham Local Schools Safety Update #1: 2018

Graham Implements New Safety Features for School Year

August 20, 2018

Graham Local Schools takes safety seriously. Our staff works hard to plan, assess, and review actions to improve our awareness and responses to issues that arise over time. Over the summer months, we have added several safety features to our services for more in-depth Operations for the 2018-2019 school year. The district took several steps to address school safety:

1. School officials have met with local authorities and the GLS Emergency Operations Team to plan a new round of ALICE trainings for students and staff for fall 2018. The **A.L.I.C.E.** (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) active shooter response training for all staff and students will continue on a consistent basis. Practicing our prepared responses is a proactive way to ensure new students and staff are trained, and all staff have updated communication about safety responses. This is not a new practice for the district, but renewed emphasis has been placed on training.
2. Graham continues to use ***Social Sentinel***, a Geo-Tag Identification System. Graham is currently one of the only districts in Ohio using the Social Sentinel media tool, a geo-tagging social media alert system that helps us ascertain threats and save time.
3. Graham staff have received the ***CrisisGo App*** for their devices. This App allows staff to report a crisis district-wide to administrators and authorities, making response time more efficient. This product will allow for one way and two way communications with staff instantly on all district computers and mobile devices. It allows staff to quickly report safety issues to administration. The software also allows for direct instant messaging to staff in a crisis situation. CrisisGo is offered to Graham Local Schools at no cost for the next three years by AASA.
4. Graham is installing **new, upgraded interior and exterior cameras** and digital recording systems in all three academic buildings. These high resolution cameras allow us to monitor buildings remotely and provide first responders instant access, saving time when issues arise. Highly sophisticated outdoor views allow us better monitoring of our campus than ever before.
5. Graham Local Schools bus drivers will receive **Advanced Bus Driver Certification training** in September. The key topic of this training will be identifying, managing, and responding to crisis situations while operating a school bus, using advanced de-escalation techniques and strategies for crisis situations. Every driver will have an opportunity to earn a nationally recognized certification from CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute). This certification will be offered internally by Graham staff, saving the district significant money in the process.

6. Graham partners in multiple ways to address the **mental health needs** of our students. We are encouraging student representatives to join CHAMPS at the high school level with local counseling group DFYC. We continue to develop a Youth in Government Team at GHS. We continue to use the Sandy Hook Promise curriculum, and Kindness challenges.
7. We will be able to offer some local mental health supports **with partner Mercy Hospital** in the fall of 2018. Mental Health first Aid will also be offered to interested staff this fall.
8. Graham and its county partner schools and agencies have met to dialogue about safety and reporting measures, court action steps, and future meetings to share information. Our annual emergency operations review will take place again in September.
9. **New parking spot identification and procedures** for students will allow us to better monitor our students', and visitors' welfare.
10. **SRO Tony Sells has undergone specialized training for crisis management** related to busing with the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Office Sells has been asked to present at a statewide safety conference in September to share Graham's EOP Plans.
11. With **major changes to our transportation routes** this school year, it is important to remind all student and parents that Graham's responsibility to monitor children at pick up location begins when the bus arrives, and until it departs at drop offs. Our Director has met with local authorities to discuss group stop locations and traffic patterns.

The Ohio Dept. of Homeland Security has approved Graham's comprehensive safety plan. Best practices in all areas of building safety and security have been described and recommendations have been made. The Board of education discusses ways to increase the resources we have available to devote to improving our infrastructure related to safety, over time, with local tax supports.

While it is impossible to predict or prevent every situation that we may confront, we can be proactive to handle crisis situations as they arise. I want to assure you that we are prioritizing school safety and student wellness. Director of Operations Don Burley will be reviewing Safety at our September Board meeting, as he does annually.

Sincerely,

Kirk Koennecke

Superintendent

Graham Local Schools