



Graham Local Schools Safety Update: Graham Implements Safety Upgrades.

February 7, 2019

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. The district is taking several steps to address school safety:

1. Graham installed new, upgraded interior and exterior cameras and digital recording systems in all three academic buildings. The increased number of 4K cameras are clear and sharp and can digitally enhance minor details and cover a much larger area for surveillance. The system records and stores footage and can be monitored remotely. The new equipment can trigger alarms for designated areas. What's really valuable is the live feed that our SRO and administrators can access daily, making response time more efficient in the case of an emergency.
2. 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. SRO Sells provided several situational drills for buildings in the fall. A Spring Parent meeting for A.L.I.C.E. updates will be offered in early April at GMS.
3. The district has made a conscious effort to increase student access to licensed mental health counselors. In a unique partnership with Consolidated Care launch in the fall, we now offer mental health and social services to students at no cost to the families or the district, for 6 hours per week.
4. PBIS efforts for behavioral wellness continue. The annual Great Kindness Challenge weeks at both GES and GMS recently rose awareness about respect and behavior for all students. The Leader in Me implementation at GES includes a Community Action Team to help educate and spread the curriculum being taught beyond the classroom so parents and community can help reinforce the skills we want our youngest Falcons to demonstrate. GHS students are involved in the upcoming Teen Titans Countywide Leadership Challenge, created by Graham, to foster awareness of diversity issues and teach leadership skills.
5. The Athletic Director, Officer Sells, and building principals at GMS and GHS have provide information and counseling regarding the dangers of Vape use.
6. Campus safety and security lighting has been improved/replaced through the use of warranties at no cost.

7. Graham will participate in a countywide disaster planning meeting in early March with officials from the area. Graham is designated as a secure distribution and staging center for disaster relief should a county catastrophe occur.
8. Officer Sells trained bus drivers in October in crisis procedures, including active threat situations. Director Burley trained drivers in identifying, managing, and responding to crisis situations while operating a school bus.
9. Graham nurses were recently re-certified in CPR/First Aid.
10. Graham continues to use Social Sentinel. Graham is one of the only districts in Ohio using the Social Sentinel media alert tool, a geo-tagging social media alert system that helps us ascertain threats and save time based on social media activity around us.
11. Graham staff continue to have access to 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.

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.

While it is impossible to predict or prevent every situation that we may confront, we can act to be as prepared as possible to handle crisis situations as they arise. I want to assure you that we are prioritizing school safety and student wellness.

Sincerely,

Kirk Koennecke

Superintendent

Graham Local Schools