



Joseph G. Joyner, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

40 Orange Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
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www.stjohns.k12.fl.us

August, 2015

Dear Parents,

SCHOOL BOARD

Beverly Slough
District 1

Tommy Allen
District 2

Bill Mignon
District 3

Kelly Barrera
District 4

Patrick Canan
District 5

The St. Johns County School District is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for your child. Each St. Johns County school has an Emergency Operations Plan with incident specific procedures that is reviewed and practiced regularly. These plans have been formulated using Federal Emergency Operations Agency and Department of Education guidelines that conform to federal, state and local guidelines. They have been coordinated with St. Johns County Emergency Services including law enforcement, fire and rescue, and the Emergency Operations Center. All principals are linked to the District's Crisis Management Team through telephone landlines, cellular phones and/or two way radios. St. Johns County School District recognizes **The Incident Command System (ICS)**, a nationally recognized organization structure that provides for role assignment and decision-making while planning for and responding to critical incidents of all types.

Our school district works closely with local public safety officials using their expertise and input. Regular safety, health, security and fire inspections take place each year in all district schools. All district schools have been designated as shelters to be used in the event of a hurricane or other emergency requiring temporary shelter. Each school has a Safety Committee that meets a minimum of four times per year to discuss issues of safety and security. Fire drills are conducted each month beginning with two in August. We also practice tornado, lockdown and AED Response Drills and instruct students in procedures used for bomb threats and shelter in place drills. Bus evacuation drills are held once each semester.

Visitor and volunteer sign in procedures are required in each school. All district schools use the Keep N Track sign in system. We require all visitors and volunteers to sign in and wear name tags when visiting the school. All volunteers must complete a St. Johns County School Volunteer Application. A background check will be completed by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office for security approval before applicants can volunteer.

All St. Johns County high school and middle schools are assigned full time Youth Resource Deputies and provide support to all our elementary schools. These resource officers are St. Johns County Deputies and have received extensive training in working with students and local schools.

THE OFFICE OF SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS' PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON CRISIS PLANNING SUGGESTS THAT SCHOOLS CLEARLY LET FAMILIES KNOW THEY SHOULD NOT CALL THE SCHOOL'S DIRECT LINE OR COME TO THE CAMPUS DURING AN EMERGENCY. IF THE SCHOOL HAS NOT BEEN EVACUATED, CALLS COULD TIE UP DESPERATELY NEEDED COMMUNICATION LINES IN AND OUT OF THE SCHOOL AND PARENTS' CARS COULD PHYSICALLY BLOCK LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE/RESCUE AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS. THEREFORE, IN THE EVENT OF A CRISIS, WE WILL COMMUNICATE THAT:

- *A CRISIS HAS OCCURRED*
- *SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS ON WHAT TO DO AND NOT TO DO*
- *ALL POSSIBLE STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO SEE TO THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN.*
- *ASSURANCE THAT YOU WILL BE REUNIFIED WITH YOUR CHILD AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO*

Every school has specific plans for the reunification of parents and their children in the event of a major emergency. Under certain circumstances, students may be evacuated to another site. In the event our school is evacuated, our primary relocation site is _____. To communicate with parents and families in a crisis, our primary mass communication system will be Blackboard Connect. This system provides instant telephone and email communication accepting up to five phone numbers and email addresses per student. Our system can be used for emergency calls, community outreach, special events, and other school/district messages.

School psychologists, social workers, and counselors, trained in crisis intervention, are available to students and their families in all emergencies. A district counseling team is available for school support. All high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools are equipped with AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator). Each school has CPR/AED certified faculty and staff and an AED Response team.

If at any time you have concerns about the safety of your child or issues concerning safety or security, please call the school.

Sincerely,

Principal

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The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.