

Q: What kinds of things do your school police officers do on a daily or weekly basis to promote safety and security?

A: Daily self-assessments and personal preparation (making sure they are mentally, physical, emotionally and spiritually recharged and ready to do their job and perform at a high level. Regular training (physical, tactical and educational). Daily screenings and preventative checks of persons, bags, lockers, etc. Electronic Surveillance and constant upgrade of systems, routine patrolling inside of the school, outside and within neighborhoods around our campus.

Regular follow-ups and intelligence gathering with local law enforcement and the courts. Follow-ups with students, conversations and meetings with parents. Creation of Preventative Safety Plans, developed in conjunction with administrators and families to keep individuals safe from specific threats. Routine evaluation and security assessments of the campus, redirection of negative behaviors and assistance with disciplinary action by the school. Facilitation of mediations (between students, staff and families), training and supervision of subordinate security personnel, logistical planning for events and functions, investigations, enforcement activities and criminal prosecutions thereafter.

Q: What can you tell parents/guardians to help them feel assured that their children are safe at school?

A: No one is perfect, not all things can be stopped, and no one can promise to be everywhere, all the time. But they will NEVER find a more dedicated group of caring and compassionate individuals collectively prepared, purposed and willing to respond and do WHATEVER it takes to keep a child safe, as if the child was our own. I would gladly lay down my life for any child, employee or visitor in my schools and our team feels the same.

Q: How do you and your officers build trust with students, staff and community members?

A: Over the course of my career I had the privilege of working with a lot of wise veterans (including my father) who taught me a lot of good lessons. For example: "Do what you have to do, not too much, not too little. Never let it get personal. Do whatever needs to be done with respect, leaving a person their dignity. In other words, treat people the same way you'd like someone to treat you or your loved one." This is the mission, marching order or mantra our officers carry with them each day, and this is what allows us to earn the trust level we have with our community.



What is a lockdown?

A "lockdown" is generally called over the intercom or over the radio as an announcement for staff to secure all classrooms, offices and other spaces in order to keep students, visitors and themselves safe from the presence of a "sudden onset threat" already inside or rapidly approaching the building.

What is a shelter in place?

A "shelter in place" is a procedural technique implemented to secure (or move and secure) students and staff inside a controlled area, due to an identified exterior hazard, impending danger or potential threat from the outside.

Unlike a lockdown, shelter-in-place situations are generally less sudden in nature, giving staff time to strategically prepare for the safe-keeping of an identified group or the entire school community. This process allows a building to continue to function while responders assess potential external issues.

During this process, traffic in and out of the building should cease, or be done only in emergent situations under safe escort.