

Dear Franklin Families:

In light of yesterday's tragic event, the leadership team visited every classroom today during periods 4 and 5 to reassure our students that they are in a safe environment. Specifically, we shared the following information:

1. We lock the school doors when the school starts every day.
2. Cameras are monitored by various personnel all day.
3. We practice emergency drills. This is why we take fire-drills so seriously. When we practice a fire-drill every month, we are practicing for an emergency situation.
4. We want everyone to understand that agendas, IDs and uniforms are an important part of our security plan. These quick identifiers help us quickly see who is in the hallway - whether they belong here or not. Our students must be in full uniform including their IDs around their necks and have their agendas at any time in the hallways. The kite on the pants etc. are our visual clues. They are quick identifiers as to whether someone belongs here or not. Our volunteer parents wear vests and are raptured at the front office.
5. We are fortunate to have Mr. Hill as our Head of Security. Mr. Hill not only has a Masters degree in Criminal Justice but vast experience in the Sheriff's Office as a SWAT Officer, Lieutenant, Captain and ultimately Chief of Police. At this time in particular, we would certainly appreciate more volunteers to work with Mr. Hill in the area of security. If you would like to volunteer your time in the area of security, please [contact Mr. Hill](#). We also advised our students that Pines PD will be providing more officers at dismissal time. This is not to alarm them but to make them feel more secure.
6. It takes a village to raise a child and this is our village! As part of IB, we focus on a character trait every month. In October, we focused on responsibility. In November, we focused on citizenship. It is important to stay informed but know the facts. Be responsible with your social media and make sure not to spread rumors or exaggerated information. You must focus on being a part of the solution not the problem. We made sure to tell the students today that it is everyone's duty to "See Something, Say Something".
7. Tomorrow, we will demonstrate our support as a school by dressing in black shirts and jeans. This is out of respect, therefore please make sure there are no hoodies and no ripped jeans. You are demonstrating respect for the families and students of Marjorie Stoneman Douglas.
8. We ended our presentations with a few discussion questions. These are also great questions for you to discuss with your students at home.

i. What thoughts or reactions have you been having since the tragedy?

ii. What is your biggest concern or worry about the immediate future?

iii. What would help you feel safer right now?

A few other items to note. Printed progress reports will go home tomorrow. We will have a Realtor Coffee House next Tuesday, February 20th at 9 am. If you are a realtor, please join us! Next Wednesday, February 21st is our Parent Academy where Mrs. Showalter, our AP of Academics, will discuss everything you need to know as a parent about the FSAs and EOCs. Please note, this is an extremely important meeting to your child's academic success. Your attendance will also fulfill 1 of your 8 required service hours.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arlene H. Valdes

Principal