

Training and technology important when partnering for safety

By Edell Fiedler, public information

Mankato Area Public Schools' generally serves families in the cities of Mankato, North Mankato, Eagle Lake and Madison Lake. When it comes to school safety, partnerships between all of these jurisdictions is important. Training and exercises provide hands-on learning and show what works and what needs to be changed or addressed. At times, when needed, follow-up exercises are scheduled to continue to improve efforts.

In addition to hands-on training and exercises, safety features are important parts of the partnership, and technology helps enhance security. School buildings are equipped with surveillance cameras to help visually monitor inside and outside areas. Security staff help monitor the more than 600 cameras located throughout district buildings, and on-site radios provide direct contact with public safety during emergencies.

Devices located at main entrances of school buildings enhance safety. Visitors sign in. See something, say something is a practical way for everyone to participate in community safety.

"By working together in conversation or through technology, we can be proactive in addressing emergency situations and help keep each other informed about safety topics," says Scott Hogen, director of facilities for Mankato Area Public Schools. "We continue to look for opportunities to enhance security for students, staff and visitors."

For more information contact Scott Hogen, director of facilities, at 507-345-5311.



A surveillance camera and communications device located outside the main entrance of a Mankato Area Public Schools' building.

Prepared for safety even when on the go

School officials can access safety plan information quickly thanks to a mobile safety platform. This simple to use and secure app helps empower faculty and staff by providing immediate access to safety plan information when it's most needed. Tool like this app, along with emergency planning, help keep learning environments safe and productive for all.

For more information, contact Scott Hogen, director of facilities, at 507-345-5311 or shogen1@isd77.org.



Partnering for efficiencies