**Volusia Connect**

Volusia Connect, provided by SchoolMessenger, is our school-to-home telephone messaging system which allows the superintendent and school principals to send periodic and personalized messages to all parents and families with one recorded phone call. Parents are encouraged to list current phone numbers on the Emergency Information Card for each student. Only the numbers listed will be used. Messages can also be sent via email.

The one-way text messaging feature requires an effort to make sure cell phone numbers are collected and input properly so they can be uploaded to the automated calling system. Parents may periodically receive a text message and may opt-out if they do not wish to continue receiving messages in this format. There is always the ability to call the school to opt-in or out at any time during the school year.

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**Emergency Information Card**

Be sure to keep your contact information up-to-date in case of emergencies. You will receive an emergency contact card at the beginning of the year. Make sure your information is correct, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses, and return the card to your child’s school.

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**Let’s Work Together to Keep Our Students Safe**

Every student has a right to learn in a safe, healthy and supportive environment. In Volusia County, we make the safety and well-being of your student, our employees, and all visitors a top priority. As many of you are aware, state law requires an armed, trained, safe school officer on every school campus during the school day. In compliance with state statute, we have partnered with local law enforcement to ensure all of our school campuses have local police officers, sheriff’s deputies or school guardians assigned.

Volusia County Schools is also a part of a statewide initiative called FortifyFL. It’s a reporting app that allows anyone to anonymously report a threat involving schools directly to law enforcement and school administrators. You can download the app on your phone or go to the FortifyFL website: [www.getfortifyfl.com](http://www.getfortifyfl.com). Remember, IF YOU SEE OR HEAR SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.

We look forward to working together with you to keep our students and campuses safe. If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding school safety and security in Volusia County, please contact Chief Michelle Newman at [mlnewman@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:mlnewman@volusia.k12.fl.us) or call the Security Operations Office at 386-734-7190, ext. 20629.