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Dear Parents:

Our priority is to provide all students with a safe learning environment each day in Monongalia County Schools. This work begins with teachers and staff members, who have been asked to create positive, meaningful relationships with every student. Though our nation has seen sad and frightening violence in schools over the past few years, I still believe the schools in Monongalia County are the safest place in the community for our students for a variety of reasons. Listed below are several safety measures currently in place designed to safeguard students and to affect positive student learning in the classroom:

- Secured vestibules that do not allow direct entrance into the schools.
- Visitor Registry: All visitors have to register with the front office before having access to a building; this is currently done with the Raptor System, which tracks a variety of information and runs a background check, to include Registered Sexual Offenders data.
- District Identification Badges: All district staff have been provided district ID badges to be worn at all times when at school or at another district facility.
- School Resource Officer (SRO) Program: Monongalia County Schools has collaborated with Monongalia County Sheriff's Department, Morgantown City Police, and Westover Police Department to provide SROs in our middle and high schools. The officers are assigned to our schools to provide security and education. Each officer also has direct access to our elementary schools.
- Safety Drills: Students and staff participate in school-wide safety drills throughout the year. These drills include an ALICE training. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. All staff members are provided professional development on ALICE annually.
- Operation Safe Schools Initiative (OSSI): Monongalia County Schools has collaborated with the FBI and local law enforcement to train faculty members on the recognition of gun shots in a school environment to better help identify when a crisis is occurring.
- WV Crisis Prevention & Response Plan: The state department has a robust system in place whereby key administrators are informed of an emergency situation. In turn, parents and other stakeholders can be informed within mere moments through the use of School Messenger and other forms of social media. The goal is to quickly and accurately communicate essential information to first responders, district staff, parents, and community members so that the safety of your children is maintained throughout an event.

I trust you will agree that we have the people, processes, infrastructure, and crisis communication plans in place throughout our district to help safeguard your children. We ask that everyone be involved, aware, and speak up when necessary. If you see something, say something. If you know something, make sure someone at a school is made aware of it. By working together, we can ensure that our schools remain a safe learning environment for all students and school personnel. Of course, I consider the matter of school safety everyone's business. Together, we can continue to create a broad and superior security network for the safety of students and staff.

In our district, your children come first. Thank you for entrusting them to our care.

Respectfully,

Adam Henkins

Adam C. Henkins
Director of Safe Supportive Schools
Monongalia County Schools