



**Caverna Independent School District**

**1102 North Dixie Hwy.**

**Cave City, Kentucky 4212**

**Phone (270) 773-2530**

**Fax (270)773-2524**

***Amanda G. Abell, Ed.S. - Superintendent***



## **2022 SAFETY LETTER TO PARENTS**

**Caverna Parents/Guardians,**

As the new school year begins we would like to share with you some of the steps that Caverna has taken to enhance the safety of our students and staff. Safety is the number one priority in our district, and we have invested nearly \$900,000 this summer to make our buildings safer. We are installing new doors, door hardware and electronic locks throughout the district. Outside doors will have sensors to alert school personnel when they open. We have also created a double buzz in system at the high school main entrance. The middle school entrance will have better visibility for the office personnel before visitors can be buzzed in. At the elementary school, we are installing electronic locks to control access to the cafeteria and the hallways when needed. Also, we have some new cameras and vape sensors at the high school.

We realize, however, that mechanical upgrades are only one part of keeping our schools safe. The most important aspect of school safety is the human component. Our entire staff has been trained on trauma informed practices, suicide prevention and emergency situations. Along with having school counselors at each school, we have also partnered with Bluegrass Professional Counseling to put additional mental health counselors in our buildings. Anytime you feel like your child needs counseling services, reach out to the school. There is no cost for those services.

As a parent, you may have knowledge of situations in which the school needs to be aware of to help prevent violence, acts of self-harm or bullying. If you have concerns that something could happen in our schools, please reach out to us immediately by phone or email. If it's after normal school hours and you cannot reach anyone by phone, there is the STOP Tipline and the "Don't be a bully, be a friend" links on our Caverna Independent Website (bottom left-hand side). You can report to either one, or both. The STOP Tipline goes through the Office of Homeland Security and the other goes through the school webpage. They will both reach school personnel after normal hours. When student safety is at stake, you cannot afford to wait.

Another way parents can help with our safety measures is to call the school office if you will be coming to school during the day. If you need to meet with school personnel, please call ahead to schedule an appointment. If your child has a doctor's appointment during the school day, reach out to the office to let the secretaries know what time to expect you. All of our secretaries have had Gate Keeper training. They are required to ask you a series of questions before you are allowed entry into the school, regardless if they know you or not. All visitors will be required to state the purpose of the visit, show identification, and leave car keys in exchange for a visitor badge if you will be going outside of the front office. We know this can be a little frustrating when the secretary may know who you are, but it is a requirement. We hope that you can appreciate that we are doing everything we can to keep your child safe at school.

We also ask that everyone help us keep our schools secure during student drop-off and pick-up procedures. If your child is a car rider, please drop him/her off in the designated drop off area. Do not get out of your car to walk them in. There are plenty of school staff in the buildings to make sure your child is supervised and gets to where they need to go. The only exception to this will be the first day of school for very young students. You may park in the parent parking and walk them to the office. However, students usually do better with the separation when it's done from the car line.

In the afternoons, stay in your car in the pick-up line. Please do not park and come in the buildings. This creates a safety issue, puts additional stress on the secretary and the teacher during an already busy time, and it also runs the risk of blocking the buses. Also remember that picking up a child a little early to avoid waiting in the car line will count against your child's attendance and can lead to truancy. My advice on car rider pick-up for those who don't want to wait in a long line would be to arrive at the school about 5-10 minutes after the dismissal bell. The crowd has usually thinned out considerably.

In conclusion, we want to thank you for sending your child to Caverna Schools. We hope this will be the best year ever. We have some exciting things going on this year, with lots of new opportunities for the kids. Research tells us that children are more successful when schools and parents work together. We cherish this partnership and encourage parent participation.

Sincerely,



Nathan E. Wyatt, Assistant Superintendent  
[Nathan.wyatt@caverna.kyschools.us](mailto:Nathan.wyatt@caverna.kyschools.us)



*Caverna Schools - Small but Mighty!!!*