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www.lebanon.k12.or.us

Pursuing Excellence for Every Student, Every Day

September 6, 2022

Dear LCSD Community,

In light of recent events around the country, many communities are taking account of their safety measures. Understandably, they look to their school districts with curiosity about the systems and measures in place to keep students safe. At Lebanon Community Schools, we frequently reexamine areas that may benefit from reinforcement or better training.

Mental Health and Whole-Student Care

Members of our district leadership, including myself, attended national safety conferences over the summer to learn from experts. Fortunately, we found that those experiences affirmed the work we're already doing here. Mental health struggles are a major contributor to unsafe situations in public spaces and schools; here at LCSD, we have social-emotional learning tools, practices, and screeners to identify and address the needs of our students whose struggles fall outside of academics. We have trained school counselors and mental health therapists who team up to serve our students with compassion and resources. If you or your student is experiencing distress or considering suicide, please dial 988 for the [National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) at any time.

Our districtwide MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support) ensures that we strive to serve the whole student. We know that many children arrive at school with needs in addition to their academic learning. Whether those needs are basic ([food or hygiene supplies](#)) or more complex (emotional challenges or trauma), we have procedures in place—enacted by caring staff members and the support of community partners—to lift them up and guide them in a positive direction.

Protocols and Tools in Place

Schools are not immune to interruptions, and that's why we have re-trained our entire staff on the [Standard Response Protocol](#) (SRP)—a system that is shared with all our stakeholders, including our law enforcement partners. We routinely practice situations in our schools using this protocol, including fire, earthquake, secure, and lockdown drills. We will be offering an overview of SRP in a parent session for those interested in learning more; details will be coming soon.

As before, all schools in our district keep their exterior doors locked. At Lebanon High School, the layout of the campus with outdoor passageways requires that some doors are unlocked for students to access classes; however, all other school buildings have exterior doors locked as a default. We have a security camera system throughout our district that can be accessed easily by local law enforcement. And speaking of law enforcement, we appreciate a strong relationship with the Lebanon Police Department and Linn County Sheriff's Office. We share a School Resource Officer with LPD; while his office is at the high school, he serves our schools as needed.

[SafeOregon](#) is a resource at the fingertips of every student. In most tragic events that occur, there is information in advance that is not reported. Some students fail to report due to fear of retaliation from peers. SafeOregon offers an easy, discreet way to send in a tip that is reviewed by trained technicians, 24 hours per day. Depending on the nature of tips, technicians immediately reach out to school administrators or to law enforcement. Students of any age with a tip to report can text or call 844-472-3367 or email tip@safeoregon.com. They have a mobile app available as well. This is stated constantly, but it bears repeating: it is vital for the safety of all of us that if *any* of us see or hear something alarming, we must say something, immediately.

Police Welcome on Wednesday, Sept. 7

Like us, our local law enforcement are excited for school to begin. They are often patrolling in greater numbers on this day to assist with the renewed traffic. You may get to see them out at schools on the first day, greeting students and passing out stickers and high fives. That is certainly a highlight for the police, and it's wonderful for our students and school community to interact with our law enforcement partners in positive, non-emergent situations.

Those of us with decades of school experience still find the first days back, among all our students, to be exhilarating. We are grateful that you share your children with us, and we will continue to do our best in ensuring they are safe, that they feel safe, and that they emerge from our schools as happy, healthy, high-achieving humans.

Sincerely,

Bo Yates
Superintendent