



October 30, 2023

Subject: **Increased Security Personnel in the MACS system**

Dear MACS Families,

As we continue to enhance safety protocols in our schools, I want to make you aware of a new layer of security we're adding across the MACS system, thanks to feedback and financial support from you. Beginning in November, you'll see an increased presence of security personnel on our campuses, during school hours and at after-school events. This change comes as a result of consultation with local and national security experts, school leaders and parents, and is a reflection of the world we live in today. Our highest priority always is the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff, as well as our larger school community.

To this end, the Catholic Schools Office and MACS leadership conducted a comprehensive search for a security partner with the expertise and ethos to meet our standards and align with our values. This led us to engage [Praelio](#), a national leader in security and risk management based in Virginia, which specializes in providing customized security solutions to a range of clients, including schools, churches, businesses and community centers. Praelio will provide MACS with a team of armed School Security Officers who are highly experienced professionals trained in de-escalation, incident response and risk management. In addition to onsite security, the company will provide ongoing training for our faculty and staff, as well as evaluation of our overall security infrastructure and protocols. Praelio meets all federal, state and diocesan requirements for training, background and licensure.

What can you expect?

- **Experience:** Praelio employs veteran security personnel with backgrounds in law enforcement and military service. Their staff are salaried which helps ensure we'll have a consistent team dedicated to our campuses, supplemented by the strategic use of technology.
- **Presence on Campus:** Our School Security Officers will begin circulation on campuses in early November, providing a deterrent to potential security issues and enhancing overall safety.
- **Training and Consultation:** Officers will provide comprehensive training for faculty and staff in emergency medical, active shooter and de-escalation response – to ensure we are prepared for a variety of possible situations.
- **Emergency Planning:** The company also will work closely with us to review and enhance our emergency response plans, with a focus on ensuring swift and effective reaction to security events.

MACS and the Catholic Schools Office would like to extend our gratitude to the parents and school leadership who have supported this initiative both financially and in spirit. Through your tuition and support of our schools' annual funds, we have been able to provide more than \$600,000 for our enhanced security through our schools' operational budgets. We appreciate your understanding and support, as we continue to provide the safest environments possible where our students can learn, grow and flourish.

If you have questions, please reach out to your school leadership, or visit www.praeliosecure.com.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in our system.

Dr. Gregory Monroe
Superintendent of Catholic Schools



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are the new School Security Officers full- or part-time?

These are full-time, salaried positions. Because they are salaried, our School Security Officers have the flexibility to be present at a variety of times and locations, including after-school events.

2. Where and when will security officers be posted?

School Security Officers will circulate throughout buildings and grounds of all of our campuses on an irregular schedule in coordination with school leaders, giving them a dynamic presence throughout the school day and before/after hours.

3: Are security officers legally allowed to possess firearms on school premises?

Yes. Praelio has secured the necessary North Carolina license to perform armed security services on school campuses as prescribed by North Carolina law (N.C.G.S. § 14-269.2). Additionally, all School Security Officers meet the requirements of N.C.G.S. § 14-269.2(g)(1a) and N.C.G.S. § 14.269(b)(4b)-(5), qualifying them as former law enforcement or current off-duty officers, such as Reserve Sheriff's Deputies, to perform security services.

4: What is the cost of implementing this security enhancement, and how is it funded?

We have budgeted more than \$600,000 for this security initiative, which will be funded through our schools' operational budgets, and if necessary, supplemented by funding from school annual funds.

5: Are School Security Officers the primary focus of the schools' approach to security?

No. While this is a significant enhancement to our security measures, we have many layers of security in place and continue to implement additional safety measures, as recommended in our regular independent security assessments. We provide a holistic approach to safety and security, to ensure our schools provide the safest possible environments.

6: How will the School Security Officers handle situations that arise on campus?

Praelio officers are trained to prioritize de-escalation and perform thorough situation assessments. They will act decisively to protect our children and staff if they detect a serious threat, but generally will consult with their supervisor and school leadership before taking action.

7: What if I have concerns or feedback about this initiative or the conduct of the School Security Officers?

We welcome feedback from our school community. If you have concerns, questions or feedback, please contact your principal and/or the Catholic Schools Office at catholicschools@rcdoc.org. We value open communication and are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff.