

Templeton/Kalapuya Layers of Safety



Why are we talking about safety right now?

People who work in schools are always thinking and talking about student safety. We know our families think about the well-being of their children all the time. We want this to help reassure families that we're doing everything possible to keep all our kids safe. We also revisit safety protocols at the start of the school year. Part of that involves sharing our protocols with you.

What role does safety play in your overall school planning?

At Templeton our primary focus is about student learning & their own well-being. To do this we need to ensure all students feel safe, requiring a great deal of planning and collaboration with our staff, those at the district level, and our community partners. We vigilantly look to address needs to reduce vulnerability. We want to be as transparent as possible so families know and feel confident that everything is being done to protect their children. We only share what's necessary with students, but ultimately safety is something we don't want students to spend too much time thinking about so they can focus on enjoying school and learning. With that said, it's something adults need to think about all the time.

Building Safety Protocols

- All visitors must check-in the front office and wear badges/name tags in the building
- Doors are not propped open
- Everyone must enter the building through our secure vestibule in the front office
- Templeton has an assigned School Resource Officer (SRO) from the Tigard Police Department to assist in emergencies and in consultation

Safety Drills: How do you train staff and teach students?

Our safety committee meets monthly to plan and evaluate drills and protocol implementation, while also identifying and eliminating potential safety hazards. Our safety committee is very proactive in keeping all students safe and is composed of our head custodian, office staff, family partnership advocate, assistant principal and principal.

As a staff we formally review all safety protocols at least three times a year and as needed based on our monitoring. Safety protocols are reviewed with staff and students at the start of the year. We will review protocols in January and after spring break.

We run monthly fire drills, with many now involving procedures for earthquakes, and also have drills for Lock-Downs & Lock-Outs. These are procedures to protect students from danger both outside and inside of the school. We will communicate with families prior to implementing one of these drills. TTSD uses the Standard Response Protocols. You can find more information about these by clicking on the link. <https://iloveguys.org/The-Standard-Response-Protocol.html>

Mental Health Supports: How do you help students with mental health?

The biggest impact we can possibly have is to create a welcoming, positive, affirming, and emotionally safe environment for every student at Templeton. As a staff, we believe very strongly in the sentiments in renowned child psychologist Ross Green's famous quote, "Kids do well if they can." If our students aren't doing well it's our responsibility as educators and as a community to do everything in our power to help them. We need to be diligent in identifying and

remediating anything that's potentially dangerous, but a positive and supportive environment will go a long way toward neutralizing potential threats.

TTSD & Templeton specifically have a number of systems and protocols designed to help kids who struggle, but we're also very intentional about creating a positive school climate for all students. We utilize the PAX Good Behavior Game and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) with all students. This keeps the focus on building healthy and positive adult and peer interaction throughout the day so that we can keep our focus on learning (additional links below).

Nearly every week we have what is called an EBIS meeting. That is an acronym for Effective Behavior & Instructional Support. In these meetings we focus on a specific grade level. Grade level teachers rotate on a weekly basis. Our special education teacher, school counselor/psychologist, literacy specialist, English language development teacher, family partnership advocate, assistant principal and the principal, attend every week. The focus of these meetings are academics, behavior and attendance. We use data and teacher feedback to provide supports for students who are struggling academically, but also with mental health and behavior.

We use this process to provide students with more support if they need it. Those supports could come in a number of different ways, ranging from an individualized plan to teach skills with desired behaviors, connecting a family with an outside counselor, or even something more intensive like a referral for a special education evaluation. Regardless, we partner with families to make data-driven decisions and do everything we can to address student needs.

Community & Family Support: How can families help?

Throughout the course of the school year students may come home and reference one of our policies, procedures, or safety drills. It's important that you listen to your child and reiterate our focus on safety and the importance of preparedness. Remind them how important it is to listen to adults and to ask questions if they don't understand something. We all have a role to play in keeping our community safe and it benefits everyone when our students understand this.

Templeton is a wonderful school with an incredible community. families have a big impact on our culture and climate here at Templeton. We are very fortunate to have so many supportive families. Your continued support and positivity will contribute to making this a safe and affirming place, but with that said, if you as a family member become aware of or see something that concerns you please let us know. You can contact the main office or me directly. I want us to do everything in our power so that all students enjoy and maximize their experience. When we're focused on that, every child will benefit.

Additional Resources

- **Safe Oregon**

Safe Oregon is a program created for Oregon students, families, school staff, community members, and law enforcement offices to report and respond to student safety threats. All stakeholders can make anonymous tips in a variety of ways such as a phone call, text, or e-mail. Teachers have made students aware of this resource and we have posters throughout the school. For more information go to www.safeoregon.com

- **Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports**

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) is a school-wide system that teaches, reinforces, and measures behavior to get the best possible outcomes. With PBIS, schools teach kids about behavior, just as they would teach about other subjects like reading or math. The focus of PBIS is prevention. <https://www.pbis.org>

Templeton has its own PBIS Manual adapted to our school environment. It can be found under the **About Us** section on our website.

- **Daily Class Meetings & Caring School Communities Curriculum**

This is an evidence-based practice and curriculum for all our students K–5 across TTSD. The purpose of this is to build community and teach students important skills around self-regulation, treating others with respect, and self-awareness. We're also very intentional about creating a community of care in which all students feel safe and supported.

<https://www.collaborativeclassroom.org/programs/caring-school-community/>

- **PAX Good Behavior Game**

We use this resource as a way to help us cultivate a positive school and classroom environment for all kids. All teachers are trained in PAX. PAX is a set of strategies to help students learn important self-management skills while collaborating to make their classroom a peaceful and productive learning environment. Centered on the Good Behavior Game, PAX is not a classroom management program, but it makes managing classrooms much easier. For more information you can go to www.goodbehaviorgame.org

- **Safe Routes to School**

The City of Tigard has initiated a Safe Routes to School program for the Tigard-Tualatin School District elementary and middle schools in the community. This is a dynamic program that addresses many needs, but its primary focus is to create the conditions necessary to promote safe student routes to school and decrease traffic.

<https://www.tigard-or.gov/community-support/safe-routes-to-school-maps>