

Serving Parma, Parma Heights, &amp; Seven Hills

December 2024



# PCSD PRESS

## DISTRICT NEWS FROM PARMA CITY SCHOOLS

### Commitment to Safety: Navigating Threats in Our Schools

We hope that you are enjoying a wonderful Holiday Season! I wish that I could dedicate this passage to celebrating the many celebrations of talent and artistry that are inherent to this time of year. Unfortunately, we find ourselves again reading about the aftermath of a tragic school shooting, this time in Wisconsin. Given the notion that these events do not seem to be decreasing, I feel it is more important to explain the processes we follow when we receive a threat of violence.

The first step we take is to contact the police department of the city in which the school is located. We are fortunate to have very responsive law enforcement partners; they are always an extremely important part of this process. We will not "clear" our school for normal activities until law enforcement has helped us to determine that the threat is not credible. In fact, we have closed school in the past if we were unable to reach this conclusion in enough time to begin morning routines. We would not hesitate to do so again if we cannot reach consensus about student safety with the relevant authorities.

We communicate at this point to the families and staff members of the affected school when we have reached a clear determination of the level of credibility of the threat. Limiting communication to the specific school to which the threat was made helps parents to understand that we ONLY contact you with information relevant to your child. We do not want to send unnecessary emails or phone calls as these would lessen the likelihood of parents opening the ones that actually are relevant to their child(ren).

Beyond our collaboration with law enforcement, we also have implemented a threat assessment process. As a result of the 2021 SAVE Students Act, we created a threat assessment team for each of our middle and high schools. Members of these teams include a selection of administrators, guidance counselors, safety and security staff, and home liaisons and/or teachers. All have completed an approved threat assessment training program from a list of those approved by the Ohio School Safety Center. Tasks of a

### Important Dates

**Dec 23 2024**

**Winter Break Starts- NO  
SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS  
OR STAFF**

All day

All Schools

**Jan 6 2025**

**Return from Winter Break**

All day

All Schools

**Jan 8 2025**

**Parma Council of PTAs  
General Meeting**

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Valley Forge High School

**Jan 20 2025**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-  
NO SCHOOL FOR  
STUDENTS OR STAFF**

All day

All Schools

**Jan 23 2025**

**Parma Council of PTAs  
Kalahari Night**

All day

**Jan 24 2025**

**Professional Learning Day-  
NO SCHOOL FOR  
STUDENTS**

All day

Threat Assessment Team include receiving reports about concerning behavior, gathering information, assessing any risks posed, developing, implementing, and assessing the use of intervention strategies to prevent or mitigate risks, and documenting all of these tasks.

The final step of our process is to issue appropriate disciplinary measures. Schools have the ability to suspend students for up to ten school days. They can then recommend expulsion if the student's actions are severe. Expulsions can last up to 80 school days unless the student used or possessed a firearm on school property. In these circumstances, I hold a hearing with school administrators, the student, and their family and have 24 hours to render a decision. Safety is always my top priority when considering such a significant measure.

As always, we encourage you to contact any school administrator or our tip line at 844-SAFEROH if you see or hear anything that could pose a threat to our students or staff.

Please contact me at [smialekc@parmacityschools.org](mailto:smialekc@parmacityschools.org) if you have any questions. I am sorry to have to address such a grievous matter during what should be "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." I certainly wish your families a wonderful holiday season!

Thanks,  
Charlie  
Superintendent

All Schools

**Jan 24 2025**

**PSCD Family Skate Night-  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

6:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Forestwood Skating Rink

**Feb 4 2025**

**PCSD: Middle School Music  
Night**

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Valley Forge High School

## Community Comes Together to Support Families in Need This Holiday Season



This holiday season, a collective effort from staff members, organizations, community members, and businesses made a meaningful impact in our district. Through the PCSD Family Holiday Giving Program, we were able to assist around 120 families, providing support for 275 children to ensure they experienced a brighter holiday season. Additionally, our district continues to support students in need with a food pantry and a clothes closet, offering essential items throughout the year. The generosity and kindness demonstrated through these efforts reflect the true spirit of the season, highlighting the importance of giving back with care and compassion to our community.

If you are in need or would like to make a donation, please contact Brittney Henry at [henrybr@parmacityschools.org](mailto:henrybr@parmacityschools.org).