



Introducing the OpenGate Metal Detector System

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. We want to assure you that our district is committed to creating a safe and secure learning environment through a combination of proactive and responsive safety measures.

Our Approach to School Safety

- **Proactive Strategies:** Our efforts begin with relationship development and school culture. We strive to find ways to connect every student to his/her school. As a proactive measure, we regularly conduct drills to prepare for various scenarios, including fire, lockdown and severe weather. Our staff members receive ongoing professional development in crisis management, threat assessment and de-escalation techniques. Additionally, we work closely with local law enforcement to conduct regular security assessments of our buildings and grounds to identify and address potential vulnerabilities.
- **Responsive Strategies:** In the event of an emergency, our trained staff and established protocols ensure a swift and coordinated response. We utilize a rapid communication system to alert law enforcement and other first responders, as well as to keep you informed of the situation. As a reminder, it is most beneficial to our students and staff that you **report, don't repost**. Social media information is often inaccurate.

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To further enhance our security, our district will implement the portable OpenGate metal detector system, advanced technology that allows us to screen individuals for prohibited items in a way that is designed to be quick and non-intrusive, minimizing disruption to the school day or event while significantly improving our ability to maintain a safe environment.

Although not planned for daily use, building and district administrators will collaborate with the safety committee to determine when and where the units will be deployed, consistent with applicable [board policy](#), in order to further enhance our existing security measures.

Upcoming OpenGate Training

To ensure the effective use of this new system, we are conducting a training session for staff and select high school students on **Friday, September 26, 2025**, for some staff and high school students at various locations. This is a crucial step in preparing our staff to use this new technology to its full potential to promote student and staff safety. **Students entering the identified areas on September 26 will be searched through the OpenGate system.** Utilization of the system beyond this September training date may or may not be communicated in advance.

While our safety and security protocols are designed to keep the students and community safe, we recognize that individuals will respond differently and feel differently to these measures. In cases where families need support talking with their child about violence, we recommend the following resources:

[Talking to Children About Violence](#) (PDF), [Addressing Grief in Children](#) (PDF) and [When Grief and Loss Hit Close to Home](#) (PDF).

As always, if you or your child(ren) have any information related to any safety matter, please contact the Northern Regional Police Department at 724-625-3157 or dial 911 if there is an immediate concern, use the Safe2Say Something application or [website](#) to make an anonymous report, or reach out to building or district administrators for guidance and support.

Parents and guardians can also refer to security resources at <https://www.pinerichland.org/parent-resources/school-safety/school-safety-resources> for more.

We are proud to partner with you as part of our commitment to keeping our schools safe. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Pine-Richland School District

[Website](#)



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