Pine-Richland School District

Focused on Learning for Every Student Every Day

Introducing the OpenGate Metal Detector System

Dear Richland Families,



In September, we introduced another security feature to further enhance school safety. The OpenGate Metal Detector System will be used to screen individuals for prohibited items in a way that is designed to be quick and non-intrusive.

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 Richland staff and students on Tuesday, November 25**. Similar trainings have been conducted throughout the fall at Pine-Richland High School, Pine-Richland Middle School and Hance Elementary.

This is a crucial step in preparing our staff to use this new technology to its full potential to promote student and staff safety. **Some students entering the building on November 25 will be searched through the OpenGate system**. Use of the system beyond this training date may or may not be communicated in advance.

Parents and students do not need to do anything special to prepare. Children will be made aware of the metal detectors via a principal's announcement the day before, and parents can help reinforce this at home by reminding students that they may have seen metal detectors before at amusement parks, airports, museums and other attractions.

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 website** or app to make an anonymous report, or reach out to building or district administrators for guidance and support.

Parents and guardians can also refer to **district security resources** and **learn more about what to expect with the metal detectors** on our website.

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

Pine-Richland Website

Pine-Richland School District | 702 Warrendale Road | Gibsonia, PA 15044 US

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