

To Parent(s) and Guardian(s) of a Manassas Park City Schools Student:

SafeSchools

Safety is the highest priority in Manassas Park City Schools. To ensure our students receive the highest quality education in a safe and secure learning environment, ongoing monitoring, evaluation and overall improvements are made throughout the year. We are pleased to share some of the enhancements that were implemented across the school division last year.

You may recall during the 2015-2016 school year, MPCS introduced *SafeSchools Alert*, a tip reporting service that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration four different ways:

1. **Phone:** 703.659.6684
2. **Text:** Text your tip to 703.659.6684
3. **Email:** 1435@alert1.us
4. **Web:** <http://1435.alert1.us>

You and your student can easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism, or any safety issue that are of concern through SafeSchools Alert. Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives is immediately logged into the system. Our administration is immediately notified so they can investigate and take appropriate action. Tips may also be submitted anonymously if you prefer.

Facility Enhancements

Last fall, MPCS was awarded the Virginia Department of Education's School Safety and Security grant for the second time. As a result of the grant funding, access control systems were installed in all our school buildings across the division along with additional emergency radios to facilitate better communication in the event of an emergency.

Options-Based Responses

In 2014, students and parents were introduced to an options-based response protocol, known as A.L.I.C.E, which MPCS adopted as part of our crisis management and emergency planning. Our students, faculty, and all staff continue to receive regular, yearly training with opportunities to practice in the event of an emergency. Please visit our website for more information. Please see the attached brochure for additional information.

OLWEUS Program at Elementary Campus

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) is one of the best-known bullying prevention programs in the nation. The goals of OBPP are to reduce bullying problems and prevent new bullying problems from happening. The program also works to make relationships better among students. The program is for all students, not just for students being bullied or who are bullying others.

Parents and guardians play a key role in this program. Your child will be asked to tell an adult at school and at home if he or she is bullied or sees bullying happening at school. It will be very important that you take any bullying seriously and tell our school staff. Our school staff members continue to be trained to deal with bullying situations when we are told about them. MPCS believes that a safe school experience is something that all students should be able to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Bruce McDade
Superintendent