

Plainville Citizen Op-Ed, July, 2018

In Plainville Community Schools, the safety, security, and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. District and school administration maintain a positive and collaborative relationship with the Plainville Police Department and continuously work together to ensure that our schools are safe spaces for student learning and development. A district wide committee with members from Plainville Community Schools and the Plainville Police Department crafted our District Emergency Plan, which provided detailed information to all school personnel about how to respond in the event of an emergency situation. Such emergencies include everything from natural disasters to an intruder entering a building. Regular drills are held at the school and district level to ensure that staff and students know how to respond to any emergency situation.

During the summer months, Assistant Superintendent, Steve LePage, Plainville High School Principal, Roberto Medic, and I, in consultation with the Plainville Police Department and newly appointed School Resource Officer, Jessica Martins, will attend a variety of local and national security training sessions. Following these trainings and in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, a full review and update to the current District Emergency and Safety Plan will be conducted. This review will further clarify procedures, roles, and responsibilities during emergency or crisis situations. In addition to revising our safety and security plans, several safety upgrades are being completed over the summer months. These updates include more secure entryways and increased camera and lighting coverage.

On September 26th, I, together with Chief of Police, Matthew Catania, and School Resource Officer Jessica Martins will host a District Safety Forum at Plainville High School from 6:30-8:30PM. At this forum, several key district and police department personnel will share important information related to school safety and overall student well-being with members of the community. This forum will provide an opportunity for families and residents to better understand the efforts the district has taken to ensure that all students are kept physically and emotionally safe and secure so that they can focus on learning during their years in Plainville Community Schools.