

A Message from Superintendent Hoernemann

We are always working quietly on making our schools physically and psychologically safe.

This topic is obviously on everyone's minds following the recent tragedies. The purpose of this message is not to tell parents all that we have done or are doing but to thank parents and students for the roles you play in keeping our kids safe every day.

The number one factor in maintaining safety is strong relationships between students and parents and students and adults in the school setting. Do they feel comfortable telling an adult about their concerns? We get tips all the time and follow up on each one, frequently preventing or interrupting a negative situation. How can parents help? Listen to your child and ensure that he/she speaks to someone at school if there is a threat. Be sure to reinforce the dangers of repeating rumors (if they don't hear it with their own ears, see it with their own eyes, don't pass it on). It is also important to caution young people about spreading information through social media.

Our focus continues to be on maintaining a safe school environment. Here are a few things we are doing or have done concerning school safety:

- Last spring, national expert, Chuck Hibbert, reviewed all of ACSC's safety plans
- A member of the Avon administrative team serves on the Hendricks County School Safety Commission
- ACSC has a corporation school safety committee that meets several times a year
- There are two off-duty police officers (School Resource Officers) on tiered schedules who cover the entire district when school is in session
- ACSC has applied for and received the Safe Haven grant through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute that provides financial resources to partially support School Resource Officers (SROs). The SROs positively interact with students on a daily basis throughout the school in order to diffuse volatile situations and maintain the low number of students being sent through the juvenile justice department.
- Here is a link to the ACSC school safety webpage that provides periodic updates: <http://www.avon-schools.org/Page/6585>

We are all responsible for protecting the children in our community. Together, we must do our part to maintain the safety of our school community by being proactive, especially when there is knowledge of a potential threat. I appreciate your vigilance and concern.

As always, feel free to email me at mehoernemann@avon-schools.org

Sincerely,

Margaret Hoernemann
Superintendent