

Dear BRPS Families,

As most of you are aware, on Tuesday, there was a tragic school shooting in Oxford, Michigan. It is a situation schools are facing all too often. While we are unable to imagine the pain this school community and their families are going through, it is during times like these we reflect on the steps we are taking to keep our students and staff safe.

We have worked hard to put in safeguards to keep our schools safe and secure. Presently, we have implemented the following safety procedures:

- We have worked with Mecosta County Sheriff's Department and the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety to ensure that we have well-trained and well-respected School Liaison Officers in our buildings.
- We continue to provide counseling services at our elementary, middle school, and high school levels.
- We have partnered with Spectrum Health for behavioral health services.
- We have partnered with Spectrum Health to provide a Registered School Nurse.
- We have established secure entries in every school building and continue to work to upgrade our security cameras and communication systems.
- We require annual visual weapons screening training for all staff and practice regular safety drills, including lockdown and medical emergency drills, to ensure that students and staff know how to respond in an emergency situation. Our liaison officers and our school nurse help to lead and provide input on these drills.
- We work closely with our Mecosta County Emergency Management Team and local public safety officials to ensure that our current Crisis Management Plan and our drills are being implemented appropriately to prepare for situations that we hope never occur.

Please know safety is our number one priority. We will continue to be proactive in making our schools safe and secure. In addition, please know we are also open to suggestions you may have to create an even safer environment for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Tim

Tim Haist
Superintendent