

Williamsville-Sherman CUSD #15 District Dispatch - September 2018



A Publication for Community Members

From the Superintendent's Desk

SCHOOL SAFETY A TOP PRIORITY

With the world we live in today, we need to plan, practice, prepare, and educate the community and students of the importance of school security. We are very fortunate to live in communities which are great places to raise kids. For the most part, we are very sheltered from society's ills, and crime is not something we often witness or are exposed to. Consequently, we tend to take for granted the comforts given to us by living in such quiet communities, easily forgetting the importance of being diligent in maintaining safe practices.

At Williamsville-Sherman CUSD#15, safety at schools is our number one priority. Annually, building administrators review and practice security measures and drills with students and staff. We need to educate and empower staff and students to be proactive and reactive in school security and threat situations. This is a life skill that must be taught in today's education. Each building is required to conduct fire drills, bus evacuation drills, severe weather drills, and school security drills. All the students and staff participate in these drills.

In August, WCUSD#15 conducted a school security meeting with local police, fire, and first responders. During this meeting, we reviewed current school security policies and practices. The members collaborated and shared new ideas to educate, inform, and enhance school security plans, protocol, and procedures. The first responders and school leaders receive annual training. The local first responders use WCUSD#15 school facilities to practice drills, procedures, and trainings. We are working together to provide a protected and safe learning environment.

All it takes is for one unfortunate situation to occur and our school can become a target, ultimately putting your child in danger. Therefore, we will continue to investigate all measures possible to enhance school security, allowing parents the comfort of knowing that their child is as safe as possible.

This school year, WCUSD#15 has installed a school security platform with building cameras, door locking systems, and building entry systems. This system is integrated with the Sherman and Williamsville Police Departments. They can view real time data and have full access to our district security system. The second district school security enhancement is the implementation of A.L.I.C.E training for staff. A.L.I.C.E is an educational platform to educate teachers, staff, and students on how to increase their survivability during crisis situations. Additional information about A.L.I.C.E. can be found at www.alicetraining.com.

I believe our best line of security is our community, administrators, staff, and students. We all have a pulse on the learning environment. The administrators and staff take all threats seriously. Any information regarding threats or potential school security breaches must be communicated to administrators and staff immediately.

If you see something, please say something. As a parent of students in the district, I recommend taking this opportunity to speak with your children about the serious nature of these types of threats, behaviors, impact on others, and the repercussions and consequences.

November 6, 2018, Sangamon County Voters will have the opportunity to vote for the 1% Sangamon County Schools Facility Sales Tax. The Board of Education publicly approved a resolution with priority to utilize the Sangamon County Schools Facility Sales Tax revenue to enhance and improve WCUSD#15 school security and student safety.

Working together to create a learning environment where all students feel safe, comfortable, and have social-emotional support, is pillar for safe schools. Our students must feel loved and connected when they are at school.

In addition, we want to remind parents and other drivers around the school to obey all traffic signs and be mindful of their speed in school zones. Moreover, it is imperative drivers stay off their cell phones while traveling in and around the school zone. Once again, all it takes is for one tragic incident to occur and a child's life could be shattered.

Let's work together to make WCUSD#15 not only one of the best learning institutions in the state, but also the safest. Thanks for your cooperation!

For up to date district information, I encourage you to follow me on twitter @wcusd15supt, check our website www.wcusd15.org, and like our district Facebook page Williamsville-Sherman CUSD #15. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Tip Reedy
reedy@wcusd15.org
(217) 566-2014
@wcusd15supt