

Hillsboro City School District

Tim Davis
Superintendent

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Ben Teeters
Treasurer

Dear Parents,

School safety has been at the forefront of our minds at Hillsboro City Schools, as well as across the country, the past couple weeks. We have dealt with a few issues in our district – as well as numerous rumors that have proven to be false – and this has heightened concerns by our students, parents, and district staff. I understand your concerns.

Like you, I am also a parent, and my children's safety is paramount to me. While I wish that we did not live in a society where incidents like those in Florida, Sandy Hook, and Columbine occur, that is not our reality. It is more important than ever for our schools, our parents, and our community to work in partnership on behalf of our children. We know parents have a lot of questions right now about what the district is doing to keep our kids safe and what roles parents can play as partners with the schools.

On Wednesday, March 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Hillsboro High School Auditoria, we will present an informational session where parents can learn more about safety in our schools. This presentation will include:

- an overview by me, Superintendent Tim Davis, about school security, recent issues we have had in our buildings, and what steps we are taking as a district to provide the safest educational environments possible;
- a look at some of the safety and security measures we have in place in our buildings, as well as an overview of what kind of training and drills we provide to our staff and students;
- advice for students and parents about the roles they can play in partnering with the schools to ensure our children are safe.
- Chief Goudy, Hillsboro Police Department, Sheriff Barrera, Highland County Sheriff's Office, and Chief Manning, Paint Creek EMS will all be in attendance.

This program is open to our community, and I encourage you to attend. For now, I urge every parent to sit down with their children and Talk to them, Listen to them, Speak with them about If they See Something, Say Something. Encourage them to reach out to you and to school staff members if they know someone who needs help. Remind your children that if they have concerns or ever feel unsafe, they should contact any member of our school district staff for help.

Log in to your student's social media accounts, photo streams, and text messages. Be proactive, and make this a priority. So many of the tragedies that have occurred nationwide have had warning signs, and being involved in your children's social media is an important role for parents.

Remember, your children will take many of their cues from you as parents. I know this has been a stressful couple of weeks, but it is our job as adults to be a calming, reassuring influence in our children's lives. Urgent concerns should, of course, be brought to the immediate attention of a building administrator or law enforcement.

In closing, let me take the time to thank the dedicated staff members of our district who have managed several challenging issues in our schools the past couple weeks with professionalism and dedication.

Thank you to those students who took the message of "If you See Something, Say Something" to heart, bringing issues to our attention that we were able to quickly address.

Thank you to all our parents, who have expressed support and concern. Together, we can continue to ensure our schools – and our children – are given a first-class education in a safe learning environment. This must be a unified effort, now, more than ever.

I would also like to thank our local law enforcement officers from the Hillsboro Police Department and the Highland County Sheriff's Office for their support in keeping our students, staff, and community safe.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Davis". The signature is stylized with a horizontal line above the letters and a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Davis
Superintendent
Hillsboro City Schools

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"
"We provide a well-rounded experience that prepares each student to be successful in life".