

CAMBRIA HEIGHTS SAFETY STATEMENT

Our number one priority in the Cambria Heights School District is to protect our children. Many security improvements have and will continue to be made to achieve this goal! First and foremost, I would like to provide you with assurance that we have a staff that greatly cares about students. One of the biggest assets to our district is the positive student and staff relationships that are formed. We treat students like our own and strive to protect them.

The following security procedures are currently in place at Cambria Heights:

- There is only one main point of entry for all buildings! Every door remains locked at all times.
- All main entry door locks are outfitted with buzzer systems in all schools.
- There are security cameras in all of the schools.
- There are phones in all classrooms.
- An automated all-call system and a text messaging system have been instituted.
- All staff wears ID badges at all times.
- School security is provided at events.
- Guests must report to the main office, sign in, and wear badges.
- Staff members are instructed to promptly report unfamiliar people to the school office.
- CHSD Professionals are annually trained in de-escalation and/or Non-Violent Crisis Intervention strategies. Strategies taught in the program provide professional staff and/or building response teams with a framework for decision-making and problem-solving to prevent, anticipate, de-escalate, and safely respond to disruptive or assaultive behavior demonstrated by students and adults alike.
- All buildings have school counselors that provide student support through proactive guidance lessons and counseling services as needed.
- The district works with local agencies to set up counseling services outside of school for at-risk students and their families.
- The elementary school has a school-wide positive behavior plan called "Let's Build Each Other Up", which encourages students to be kind to one another and reach out to others who may need a friend.
- At all buildings, staff has been trained to use AED machines and to treat traumatic injuries through Conemaugh Health System, Stop the Bleed program.
- All buildings are conducting monthly safety drills and updating procedures at the recommendations of state and local law enforcement.
- All high school seniors are taught CPR as part of their Senior Seminar course.
- The high school faculty and staff have participated in an active shooter drill.
- All faculty and staff have undergone ALICE (**A**lert, **L**ockdown, **I**nform, **C**ounter, **E**vacuate) training and will participate in a refresher course in March.

- A formal review of all school safety policies and procedures has been done to ensure that emerging school safety issues are adequately covered in current school crisis plans and emergency response procedures.
- We have connected with community partners (emergency responders, area hospitals, victim's assistance, etc.) to review emergency response plans and to discuss any short-term needs that may be obvious in response to the current crisis.
- We have reviewed communication systems within the school district.
- Staff members monitor and supervise areas such as hallways, cafeterias, and playgrounds.
- There is a district-wide safety committee.
- Building level teams regularly review crisis and emergency plans.
- Teachers and staff have been trained to respond to students' questions and support them following a crisis. In addition, threat assessment and risk-assessment procedures are in place for teams.

The following are improvements that are in the process:

- All buildings are having "mouse trap" enclosures installed. At the main door of entry, guests must buzz in and be cleared to enter a locked enclosure area where they will be required to provide a valid driver's license using a computerized criminal database system. After being cleared by the computer, they will be buzzed in to enter the main office. Only those visitors who need to enter the building for a school-related purpose will be permitted past the main office.
- Renovation plans include updates to the safety and security of the high school building.
- The Safe Schools grant is being pursued to fund a School Resource Officer (SRO) or security guards to patrol the campuses.
- Additional cameras are being installed in all buildings.

Cambria Heights will continue to prioritize the safety of our students!