



Springport Public Schools



Providing every student with a quality education is a priority and the focus of all we do.

300 W. Main St., Springport, Michigan 49284

Phone 517-857-3495 Fax 517-857-4179

September 4, 2018

Dear Springport families and community members,

With all my heart and soul I wish that we didn't have reasons to be as vigilant against attacks on our students and our schools as we have these days. It seems that every day the news reports attacks on schools and workplaces; often by angry students or customers or employees. As your superintendent, it is my responsibility to do everything possible to help you, law enforcement and other district employees keep everyone on our campuses safe. I recognize that there is always going to be some type of conflict existing between students and we have guidelines and procedures to address most of those issues. What I'm speaking of goes beyond normal.

If you are a regular visitor to the school buildings you know that safety precautions already exist:

- All visitors must enter through the building's front doors and remain in the office area until someone can assist you. Visitors must also exit through the front doors.
- All deliveries are to be left in the office. An employee will deliver them to the appropriate location.
- Visitors may not linger in classrooms, hallways or student's lockers.
- Visitors must make an appointment or use the phone or email to communicate with teachers who are busy preparing for the workday and or working with students and can't be interrupted.
- Should you need assistance the Middle and High school offices open at 7:00 each morning.
- The Elementary office is open at 7:30 a.m. and students may enter the building at 7:40.
- At 7:15 a.m. the Small Gym at Central Office opens for any students who arrive early. Students must remain there to be safely supervised by a friendly and caring district employee.
- Elementary students are observed by district staff during pick-up and drop-off times so parents may remain in their vehicles to swiftly enter and exit the parking lots.

Before your student arrived on campus this year all school district employees participated in professional training that included new security precautions. Your students will learn these precautions and practice keeping themselves safe while on campuses or buses or at events. Each of us is responsible for our own personal safety and for taking the necessary steps to preserve that safety and the safety of those we are responsible for. This includes the principals and supervisors, teachers, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, as well as maintenance and food service people; every district employee is responsible for making sure we have safe and secure environments. This year, along with fire and tornado drills, we'll also practice evacuation and lockdown drills. Done correctly they will yield the same results by keeping our children and employees safe in an emergency.

You may have read the outstanding article about school safety written by Jennifer Chambers of the Detroit



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News. If not, it should be available on MLive as well as online at <https://detne.ws/2oeL7MQ> . Your school board has made a concerted effort to improving school security by installing the SmartBoot system. Ask your student to describe it for you; it's a pretty interesting system that integrates electronics along with mechanics to provide a secure barrier of protection should the need arise.

Other aspects of security also beautify our campuses. You may have noticed the on-going landscaping being done around the elementary parking lots. To increase visibility as well as curb appeal the overgrown and aged bushes have been removed at the west parking lot. This will enable drivers to see better as well as remove potential blind spots. River rock will soon take the place of the dirt, making it easier to walk there as well. Next summer, when the Village resurfaces West Main St., we will partner with them to install an additional driveway so drivers may exit safely in a one-way loop. Signs as well as painted lines will indicate where the drop-off and pick-up zone will be and which direction to drive. Bushes will also be removed from the eastern most lot in front of the elementary, enhancing drivers' vision as well as access to the building. Parking spaces and crosswalks will be repainted in each lot and signs will be installed indicating the location of the new preschool entrance for GSRP, Headstart and the Spartan Den. At the High School the east driveway and crosswalk will also be remodeled to increase safety for drivers as well as pedestrians.

Parents and other caregivers of preschool children enrolled in GSRP, Headstart, or the Spartan Den are asked to help ensure the safety and security of our most vulnerable population by:

- Using only the exterior doors on the east end of the building to enter and exit the preschool area
- Using the parking lot and crosswalk nearest the preschool entrance

By being diligent and determined about how visitors are provided access to students and employees we can easily manage the safety and security within our schools and on our campuses. For some of you this is a new way of doing business. However, I can assure you that Springport is not even close to taking the most extreme measures like metal detectors or police patrols that other school districts are taking. On the contrary, we prefer educating the public and encouraging families to participate appropriately in their students' education.

Your help is as appreciated as it is necessary if we are to remain a nurturing and caring community where our children can grow and learn, secure in the knowledge that they are safe because the adults around them make safety a daily priority.

Sincerely,