



Bethalto Community Unit School District #8

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Dr. Jill Griffin, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Justin Newell

Curriculum Director

Mrs. Jennifer Weber

Pupil Personnel Services

Coordinator

Dr. Barrett Deist

Business Manager (CSBO)

March 7th, 2018

Dear Unit 8 Families,

The tragedy in Parkland, Florida last month and other losses of life on school campuses across the nation continues to put a heightened awareness on student safety. Student safety is our number one priority, and we continue to look for opportunities to continue the conversation about what additional measures can be taken at our schools to increase the safety of our students and staff during these uncertain times. In conjunction with the Bethalto Police Department and Mayor Winslow (former Chief of Police), the Bethalto School District has put together a plan to continue the discussion in a meaningful and productive way in the days and weeks to come.

On Friday, March 9th, during our School Improvement Day, the Bethalto Police Department is scheduled to meet with our teachers throughout the afternoon, updating our teachers on the most current and effective practices in the midst of crises like Parkland, Columbine, and Sandy Hook. They will provide additional training and insight on the "lessons learned" from these tragedies, continuing the conversation with our teachers and following up on training they have previously provided to the district.

On the morning of Wednesday, March 14th, our students at Civic Memorial High School will convene in the gymnasium to honor the lives lost last month in Parkland with a student-led activity highlighting the 17 lives lost. Immediately following, the Bethalto Police Department will provide our students with updated training, specifically highlighting what to do in the midst of a crisis. While we practice intruder drills throughout the school year and discuss student safety through class meetings, announcements, and other means, the updated training will provide a proactive approach and best practices, outlining specific steps students can take in the event of an intruder. Our plan is to learn from the tragedy in Parkland and make it an opportunity to grow in our own understanding and to work to keep our school environment as safe as possible.

Along with honoring the lives of students lost both recently and in the past, we appreciate your continued support in providing opportunities for our students to get continuing and updated training on how to promote a safe learning environment.

If you have any questions, please contact me or the high school administration.

Respectfully,

Jill Griffin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

"Achievement for All"