



Diocese of Shreveport

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Office of the Superintendent of Catholic Schools

February 16, 2018

Dear Parents:

Keeping your children safe while at school is our top priority each and every day. Listed below are several safety measures currently in place designed to safeguard students and to affect positive student learning in the classroom. As always, I welcome your comments and would be delighted to discuss any ideas or concerns you may have regarding the matter of school safety or emergency preparedness.

Though we have seen sad and frightening violence in schools, I still believe the Catholic schools in Shreveport and Monroe are the safest place for our students for a variety of reasons. Consider the following:

- Visitor Registry: All visitors must be identified and announced per reason for being at the school.
- Closed Circuit Television: We have more than 600 digital cameras in our schools to monitor activity inside and out. Through this system, we have seen a noticeable decline in vandalism at our schools; as well, captured video images have aided our investigations into criminal activities in and around our schools.
- Controlled Access: All exterior building doors are remotely controlled and/or monitored. This allows for quicker response time in the event of an emergency in which doors need to be accessed or locked.
- Local Fire Department: Monthly fire drills ensure our students and staff are prepared for a quick exit of our buildings in the event of an emergency. As well, department personnel train our staff on the use of fire extinguishers.
- Emergency Training: Each campus conducts a variety of emergency preparedness training each semester. Such training includes “shelter,” for severe weather; “shelter-in-place,” for biohazard issues; “evacuation,” for fire emergencies; “reverse evacuation,” for dangerous issues requiring an expeditious return to the building; “lockdown,” in which an imminent danger towards students exists within the school property; and, “lockout,” in which there is a dangerous situation away from the campus, but which could impact the campus (during lockout, routine within the school is maintained; however, doors are secured, with no one entering or leaving the facility, and no outside activities, such as recess or field day, are permitted).
- Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plan: This plan encompasses many issues designed to prepare the district for a multiplicity of emergency events. School crisis management

teams discuss these issues throughout the year in order to be prepared to respond in a timely and accurate manner should the need arise.

- Crisis Communications Plan: The district has a robust system in place whereby key administrators are informed of an emergency situation. In turn, parents and other stakeholders can be informed within mere moments through the use of School Messenger and other forms of social media. The goal is to quickly and accurately communicate essential information to first responders, district staff, and parents and community members such that the safety of your children is maintained throughout an event.

I trust you will agree that we have the people, processes, infrastructure, and crisis communications plan in place throughout our schools to help safeguard your children. If and when an emergency arises, our staff is thoroughly trained to respond in a timely and accurate manner. Of course, I consider the matter of school safety everyone's business. And so I ask you to keep your eyes open and to report any unsafe condition or matter to your child's principal, or to me...and always call 9-1-1 if an emergency exists. Together, we can continue to create a broad and superior security network for the safety of students and staff.

In our schools, your children come first. Thank you for entrusting them to our care.

God bless you always,



Sr. Carol Shively, OSU
Superintendent