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Auburn School Department

"Empowering lifelong learners to succeed in a world yet imagined"

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Dear Auburn Families,

The event of the past week has been difficult for each of us to comprehend. The pain and suffering of the families of Parkland and other communities affected by school intrusions are beyond imagining. Our hearts go out to these families, as we hear of their unfathomable loss. Tragedies like these generate many questions and heighten concerns for all of us, the greatest of these being: **is my child safe at school?**

I want to assure you that safety is our highest priority. Besides having very caring, concerned and committed staff, we have protocols and procedures for emergencies. These procedures have been developed with the Auburn Police Department and experts in the field of school safety. Protocols are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the most current safety practices. Specifically, I want to share some of these important safety practices.

- The School Department works closely with the Auburn Police Department throughout the year. APD increases its communication and presence whenever there is an heightened concern.
- The District Emergency Response Team meets regularly to review and update our procedures and protocols. This work is conducted in conjunction with the APD and Scott Parker, our school safety consultant, to ensure alignment with current safety practices.
- All staff are trained in safety protocols and procedures. Drills are conducted throughout the year with staff and students to increase our preparedness. Please refer to your school handbook for more information about drills.
- Each building has a crisis team who oversees implementation of the Emergency Operation Plan. This team activates in the case of an emergency.
- Of course, we continuously work with our students and their families when they are experiencing difficult situations. Please know that there are resources available, such as guidance to assist students in processing and dealing with their emotions and feelings.

It takes all of us working together to ensure the safety of our children. Please help us reassure your child that we have many safety protocols in place. As always, we encourage students and families to speak up when they have a concern or question.

We all have the same goals in mind for our children; a wonderful childhood, a successful school experience, and a fulfilling life. Let's continue to work together to keep all of our children happy, safe and secure.

Sincerely,



Katherine Grondin