



TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

131 W. Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 | www.talawanda.org

Talawanda School District EMPOWERS Every Learner Every Day!

April 23, 2018

Dear Talawanda Families:

We have heard many of you express concern recently about safety in our schools. During this time when school violence has been experienced around the country, families are feeling a lot of fear. There have been numerous requests to increase the number of school resource officers so that each building is covered throughout the school day. The Talawanda Board of Education is monitoring new legislation that may provide state funding to schools to implement new safety measures and strategies. Key leaders from Talawanda will attend a meeting on May 9th at the Butler County Educational Service Center to learn more about their proposal/levy regarding funding resources to address school safety -- including mental health needs.

Until then, we want to remind you that the Butler County Sheriff's Department encourages their deputies to stop in the schools when they are on patrol (this is a regular occurrence at Talawanda). Our administrators and local safety officials continue to meet quarterly to evaluate the district's emergency plans, resources and training needs. Administrators are asked to review building safety plans on a regular basis, and staff members are asked to keep their emergency protocols on their desks where they are easily accessible. Each year safety officials from the Oxford Police Department and the Butler County Sheriff's Department volunteer their time to provide ALICE (**A**lert, **L**ockdown, **I**nform, **C**ounter, **E**vacuate) training to our K-12 students. The state requires that fire, tornado and intruder drills are conducted annually. Functional tabletop drills are conducted every other year, while functional drills are conducted every third year. We have been engaged in planning a functional community drill for many months that will take place on August 31, 2018. Community volunteers will be asked to assist with this task.

If you're looking for additional resources as a prevention or intervention measure, please refer to the following links:

<http://www.nctsn.org>

<https://www.schoolcrisiscenter.org/resouces/talking-kids-about-tragedies>

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/crisis/crisis.pdf>

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/violence/violence.pdf>

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at spiveyk@talawanda.org.

Sincerely,

Kelly Spivey
Superintendent

