

# OSSD SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

## School Safety



### SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

The safety of our students and staff members continues to be of utmost importance to the [Ocean Springs School District](#). Over the next year, you will see us implement new security measures in our daily efforts to provide safe and secure learning and working environments. These measures reflect the technical advisement of a school security firm that the OSSD Board of Trustees consulted with in an effort to be proactive in our security and safety approaches:

- **Ocean Springs School District Police:** This department is now fully staffed with a Police Chief and an officer in each OSSD school and two officers at Ocean Springs High School. Our police chief rotates

among all schools and can respond to an event at any school. All officers are certified as School Security Officers and receive professional development and certification throughout the year. Our police force works in cooperation with the Ocean Springs Police Department and the Jackson County Sheriff's Department to keep our schools safe.

- **Emergency Response Plans:** Each school and the district has a Crisis and Emergency Response Plan that is updated on an annual basis. Each school's administrative team develops the Crisis Response Plan to meet and exceed the standards established by state law. The plan serves as an operating guide for a wide range of emergencies and reflects each school's unique characteristics and school drill requirements. In 2019-2020, we are also adding the *Crisis Go* alert system for staff to keep them informed of medical and security emergency events that may impact building level operations.
- **Physical Security Improvements:** Since 2018, OSSD has worked to improve the physical security infrastructure at each school and to make the schools "unattractive" to criminal activity. Some of the enhancements include: Protected lobby area construction that will be used as a single point of entry for all schools beginning with the

2019-20 school year; badge access-controlled doors for all staff; door control systems which alert staff of unauthorized entry/exit; purchase of and training on trauma kits for all classrooms, buses and school common areas; and ongoing installation of state-of-the-art camera surveillance systems to help deter, detect and investigate activities that interfere with safe schools that support learning. ***The total cost of these enhancements is over \$761,800 because the lives of our students and staff are invaluable.***

- **Community Reporting Tools:** OSSD Administration and OSSD PD are committed to protecting the safety, health and welfare of all of our students and employees. This being said, we are taking every step to ensure supportive schools that are free from bullying, discrimination, harassment, aggression, violence and abuse. We cannot do this alone and ask for support from all of our stakeholders. Everyone, including students, can be of service in this realm by reporting questionable behavior. Please use the tools we have provided to help with this important mission.

**Safe to Speak Online Bully  
Reporting On WWW.OSSDMS.ORG**

Sponsored by Crisis Go



**Contact by Calling or Texting**

**OSSD Police Dept Tip Line**

662-778-8513

Email-[ossdpd@ossdms.org](mailto:ossdpd@ossdms.org)

***In the event of an emergency,*** the district will communicate information to parents via ConnectED, a web-based notification system that enables us to send district- and school-wide messages. Your contact information is pulled from the parent contact information that you record in PowerSchool during the registration process. ***Please keep this information current at all times.***

If notified of an emergency at your child's school, ***do not go to the school*** unless the notification instructs you to do so. If you go to the school when not instructed to, you may put your child, yourself, or others at risk.

*Thank you for your ongoing support!*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. J. ...".

***Please be assured that we take many other precautions to help ensure the safety of our students. If you have questions or concerns about school safety, please contact your child's principal.***