

School & Community Safety

August 17, 2022



- Welcome -

Tonight's purpose is informational:

- (1) Provide an overview of Octorara's safety and security protocols.
- (2) Share the social and emotional support resources available to students and families.
- (3) Highlight the partnerships OASD has with law enforcement and community agencies



Maximizing Every Learner's Opportunities for Success

“The mission of the Octorara Area School District, through a partnership among school, community and family is to foster a culture of high expectations in a **safe, secure, and inclusive environment**, empowering every learner to pursue the skills necessary to maximize their opportunities for success.”

-Maintaining School Safety-

Pennsylvania School Code requires that all school districts:

- Appoint a School Safety lead to coordinate efforts with law enforcement and community agencies.
- Conduct school safety and security training for all staff.
- Practice safety and security drills: fire, intruder, active shooter, shelter in place, severe weather, bus evacuation etc.
- Conduct school safety and security assessments; coordinate with internal and external groups.
- Implement the Safe2Say Something Program-anonymous tip line.
- Adopt policies for school safety and security. ***School Boards may discuss safety and security in executive session.***
- Submit a yearly reports about school safety to PDE and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency.
- Continually assess and improve practices and procedures. Grant money was made available to this year to support.

-School Safety & Security Goals-

- Protect Students and Staff
- Protect School Property
- Establish a Climate Conducive to Learning



-Safety & Security Measures-

ALL HAZARDS PLAN: framework from which OASD builds a safe and secure learning environment. It is revised annually.

DISTRICT LEVEL SAFETY COMMITTEE: includes representatives from all schools and departments and a school board member; group address workplace safety concerns, security practices and procedures, etc.

BUILDING LEVEL SAFETY COMMITTEE: each school team meets regularly; representative from each school serves on the district level committee.

SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICERS: Contracted through Signal 88: armed and unarmed; provide traffic management support, campus surveillance, coordinate with local & state law enforcement, and assist with student management issues as needed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATION: Octorara works with local & state law enforcement, first responders, and county emergency management services.

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING: with law enforcement and community organizations.

-Practices and Procedures-

VISITOR PROCEDURES: at the start of the school day until dismissal, exterior doors are locked, with the exception of the main entrance, which is monitored. Visitors must present ID at the front office.

PARENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP: streamlined so parents no longer have to enter the building during arrival and dismissal.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM: Cameras are positioned in every building, in parking lots, at outdoor athletic facilities, and on school busses.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: OASD provides ongoing training to staff in ALICE Response Procedures, Family Reunification, Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting, Trauma Informed Approaches, and other trainings required under PA School Code,

LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS: Various drills such as fire, severe weather, and lockdown or evacuation are practiced. OASD recognizes the developmental differences among K-12 students and tailors the training in an effort to prepare students without frightening them.

-Practices and Procedures-

OPEN INVITATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT: Octorara believes police officers should be viewed as resources, not as individuals to fear. Local and state law enforcement visit the campus frequently to walk the school buildings, conduct trainings, and interact with students.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH SUPPORTS: Students are supported via a framework of academic and behavioral interventions. Examples: Multi Tiered Systems of Support, Positive Behavior Support programs, etc. Each school has counselors and intervention specialists. A nurse is assigned to each school and a dental hygienist is available K-12. OASD also contracts with an outside agency for social workers, behavior coaches, and mental health therapists. Unique to OASD, is Cider, facility dog trained by Susquehanna Service Dogs and assigned to OES.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: Common Sense curriculum is used to teach internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, media balance, managing online relationships, and media literacy.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS: Threat Assessment Teams; Safe 2 Say Program; strong partnerships with community organizations and local law enforcement. Often, issues begin when students are away from school (home, social media, etc.) and then must be resolved by school staff.

-Additional Student Supports-

-School Social Workers: School social workers are in place to facilitate connections between families and all four school buildings. Social work services can assist with truancy, accessing social services as well as insecurities relating to food and housing.

-Mental Health Specialists: Mental health specialists provide a short term support to students who may be displaying needs beyond generalized school counseling but less than clinical treatment therapy.

-Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA): Behavior analysts provide integral support and consultation to the MTSS/PBIS/IEP teams directly relating to student behavior. BCBA support is in place to help shape behavior from a proactive approach, but can also assist with any unique or challenging behaviors.

-Safe2Say Program: How it Works-

- A tip is submitted via mobile app, website, or by calling the PA-based 24/7 Crisis Center.
- The tip is then triaged by the crisis center to gather enough information to act on it.
- The tip is then delivered to the impacted school and, as needed, to local law enforcement.
- The school and, as needed, local law enforcement assess and intervene with the at-risk individual.
- The school then closes out the tip and reports actions taken as a record for their school.

The Safe2Say technology does not replace any of the face-to-face interventions and strategies staff and administrators currently use with students.

-Opportunities to Continue the Conversation-

Friday, August 26th: Parkesburg Final Friday-beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 17th: Atglen Community Day-beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 19th: OJSHS MPR at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29th: OJSHS MPR at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 15th: OJSHS MPR at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 25th: OJSHS MPR at 7:00 p.m.

