

Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at Richland High School. We look forward to a great year with all our students and staff.

Our first priority at RHS is create a safe campus. Over the past few months, our district has worked closely with local law enforcement and first responders to update our safety protocols. We have procedures for emergencies from tornadoes to an event where someone might come on campus to harm others. We know this is a difficult topic to discuss, but every teacher and administrator is dedicated to keeping all students safe.

One of the most noticeable changes is the installation of a door buzzer on the front doors. Every exterior door on our campus will be locked. We would like all visitors to enter at the administrative entrance on the West side of the campus (not the gym side.)

We have asked our students not to open exterior doors for anyone. In the past, students used the west parking lot as a passageway between the H-hall and ST-hall. With the new security measures, we are asking students to refrain from using this as a way to walk between classes. We will allow students to use the student parking lot and they may walk outdoors to move between G-hall and the main doors by the Omni Room. I know many of our students will be frustrated with the new traffic pattern, but please help them to understand that student safety is our first concern.

Another change at our campus has been the addition of a second security guard. Many of you are aware that we have a security guard that monitors the parking lot, requesting ID and passes for those who enter and exit. In addition to that guard, we will now also have a guard indoors.

Finally, to ensure safety procedures are understood by all students and staff, we will conduct a drill each week for the first six weeks of school. Please see the schedule below:

Week of:

- August 20-Fire Drill
- August 27-Shelter in Place
- September 3-Tornado Drill
- September 10-Cafeteria Lockdown Drill
- September 17-Passing Period Drill
- September 24-Classroom Lockdown Drill

As you can see, we are practicing safety while students are in the classroom and when they are in vulnerable spots such as the hallway and cafeteria. To clarify the difference in lock down types, the Shelter in Place is used when a threat has been detected off campus, but nearby the school. During Shelter in Place, any student outside (at sports practice, for example) will be brought into the school. Classes will continue as normal. A Lock Down occurs when there is a threat inside the school building and all students are sequestered into classrooms and offices and kept away from windows and doors.

The administration of Richland High School places your child's safety as our top priority. We welcome you to visit with us if you have particular concerns regarding the needs of your child during an emergency. We appreciate your support as we implement these necessary safety steps.

Thank You!