



July, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As parents and guardians, entrusting your children in the Academy's care for the 2023-24 academic year, we wanted to share with you work which continues to be underway to keep our school and community safe. In preparation for the opening of school in August, and in light of recent threats and acts of violence in schools across the nation, we will again evaluate and update our emergency plan and safety protocols. Additionally, we will continue to put these plans into action to increase preparedness. Safety-related drills will continue throughout the year in an effort to ensure our faculty, staff and students are well prepared in the event of an emergency.

Here are a number of safeguards and practices in place:

- All glass exterior doors are equipped with shatter resistant film.
- Visitor entry protocols require all guests to report and sign-in upon arrival.
- Keyless card access control system which allows doors to be locked and unlocked immediately and remotely in the event of emergency; exterior and classroom doors are locked and closed except during passing periods.
- Security cameras installed in hallways and common areas, inside the school as well as select areas outside, can be viewed remotely by the police department (additional units have been installed).
- The FDL Police Department conducted an annual assessment of campus to review risk and safety compliance which helped identify opportunities for enhancements. This resulted in increased security for entry in several areas, including the Chapel, and the darkening of select classroom windows to mitigate risk.
- SMSA training and System-wide drills in Standard Response Protocol occur annually. Last fall, a team from SMSA participated in safety training at UW-Oshkosh which included representation from area school districts, Public Safety, Public Health and Emergency Management.
- In partnership with the FDL School District Crisis Team, we continue to unify action plans among the area schools, FDL Police and Fire Departments and Emergency Services.
- SMSA participates in Speak Up, Speak Out - [School Fact Sheet final.pdf](#). Created by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS), the Speak Up, Speak Out Resource Center (SUSO) is a one-stop place to turn with important concerns, offering: threat assessment consultation, critical incident response, and general school safety guidance. Click the link above for the SUSO flier or visit the SUSO website <https://speakup.widoj.gov/> for additional information on these services as well as resources on school safety best practices.
- "Active Threat Exercises" are practiced on campus. This drill is in compliance with our Safety Grant, awarded by the DOJ, which requires that an "Active Threat" exercise/drill must be practiced annually. Two drills of this nature were conducted last academic year.
- GoGuardian Beacon, which helps monitor internet activity on school-issued Chromebooks, was enhanced allowing parents and guardians the ability to receive alerts.
- Partnership with the FDL Police Department to provide added services, including increased security and police patrol presence, upon request.

Ongoing events serve to underscore the need for us all to remain vigilant in maintaining a high level of preparedness to help keep our school and community safe. In the wake of uncertainty, we sincerely hope that this information provides you with some level of confidence and reassurance that the safety of your most precious asset, your children, remains of highest priority at SMSA. Thank you for your continued diligence with regard to safety.

In Your Service,



Stacey Akey, President