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Dear East China Community:

The news of Wednesday's tragedy in Florida is heavy on our hearts as educators. Please know that student safety and well-being will always be the number one priority of East China School District. When tragedies like this occur, as school leaders our thoughts immediately turn to doing our best to create safe learning environments for all students and staff.

While we do not disclose our security plans for safety reasons, we can assure you that we have protocols in place for the safety of staff and students.

- By law we are required to have fire, tornado, and lockdown drills that provide a practice of safety precautions from both staff and students.
- Before the start of this school year, the teachers in East China School District have been trained in cooperation with our local law enforcement agencies in the Active Shooter Response Training (ALICE).
- All school buildings are locked at the start of the school day.
- School visitor procedures require visual identification before door will have to be unlocked. Visitor procedures also require visitors to sign in and wear an ID badge while in the school building.
- Interior and Exterior cameras in all schools.
- The East China School District has maintained strong relationships with local law enforcement agencies that are trained and prepared to immediately respond to our specific needs.
- Using Skylert messenger parent notification system to call or e mail families in the event of an emergency situation.

Although our building staff receive ongoing training of our safety procedures, we plan to conduct a review in the coming weeks to ensure everyone is aware of how to respond in case of an emergency. As a school district we are here to best serve your students, and it is vital that we consistently revisit our practices to make sure that we have everything in place to be as proactive as possible.

We recognize that even with these safety procedures in place, security issues can still arise; therefore, we ask that anyone in our school community report any concern or threat to a staff member. We also want to remind parents and students about State of Michigan's OK2SAY Tip Line. It is a 24-hour source designed to empower all members of the community to report safety concerns so that appropriate local personnel can respond. The OK2SAY number is 1-855-565-2729, you can text to 652729, or you can send an email to ok2say@mi.gov.

Parents and educators might also be looking for advice and insight on how to best communicate with your students about tragic or frightening news or situations. The National Association of School Psychologists, American Psychological Association, and the Child Mind Institute are good resources for how to best talk to Children during these times. The following links can provide further information:

- <https://childmind.org/article/helping-children-cope-frightening-news/>
- <http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/talking-to-children.aspx>

As we continue to navigate school safety as a community please share acts of kindness toward one another and those in need.

Thank you for your continued support of East China School District.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Suzanne Cybulla
Superintendent