

## A Message from the Superintendent of

# *Evergreen Local Schools*

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September 21, 2018

Dear Evergreen School Community,

The safety of our students and providing an environment conducive to learning is our top priority. Now, more than ever, we must be vigilant in being prepared should an event take place in one of our schools. We continue to review our policies and procedures to ensure we are prepared should we be faced with an unexpected event. We regularly conduct various safety drills to prepare students, faculty and staff for unexpected or potentially dangerous circumstances such as inclement weather and threats on or near campus.

This school year we have partnered with the Fulton County Sheriff Roy Miller to add a School Resource Officer to our campus. Deputy Alexa Schaffner, has joined the district to provide ongoing education and another level of security for our students. Deputy Schaffner has been a valuable addition through her visible presence and relationship building with students in all of our buildings.

In August, our faculty, staff and bus drivers were provided Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate training (ALICE). As a district, we are planning for further training this year, which will include student and parent opportunities. While all events are not completely preventable, we continue to be proactive to improve security measures. One of the most important steps that can be taken to prevent a crisis event from taking place is for our students and parents to be aware of their environment. By reporting anything of an unusual or threatening nature, families could impact student safety and potentially save lives. We would like to remind families about our Student Hotline. Any information related to school safety can be reported to the *Stay Safe. Speak Up! Student Hotline*, located on our website. Reports can be made name or anonymous, and they are always taken seriously. In the event of an incident at the schools regarding student safety, Evergreen will push information out to our families via the Evergreen app, social media platforms, email and our website.

New this school year is our Notify Evergreen System. Notify Evergreen is another way that information about drugs, weapons, safety concerns or other factors which may be harmful to any individual or the school environment could be reported to school administration. Notify Evergreen can be reached by text or voicemail at **419-401-9876** and email at [notify@evgvikings.org](mailto:notify@evgvikings.org). Reports are anonymous and will be taken seriously. If you would like a response from the school, please provide your name and contact information.

On Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 2:18 pm., there will be a nationwide test of the *Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)*. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct the IPAWS test to assess the operations and readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether improvements are needed. The test message will be sent to cell phones and Evergreen will use this test as a teachable moment in safety preparedness.

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff, we promise to do everything within our power to keep our students safe and address any threat to student safety. We thank you for the opportunity to educate your children and your continued support. As with anything, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns at 419-644-3521 or [esmola@evgvikings.org](mailto:esmola@evgvikings.org).

Sincerely,

Eric J. Smola  
Superintendent