

In Session with the "Oriole" Superintendent

By, Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Due to the recent lockdown in January at Parkview Elementary, and more recently at Grand Ledge Public Schools, we think it may be beneficial to review safety protocols for our school buildings and for our parents so we can work as a team to keep all of our students safe. We would like to take this opportunity to review our lockdown procedures with all of you.

What is a Lockdown? A lockdown is a precautionary measure in response to a threat directly to the school or in the surrounding community.

There are two kinds of lockdowns:

Perimeter Lockdown – This lockdown is used when a general danger or threat is believed to be in the area. Unlike in the past, all our buildings now have all exterior doors locked during the school day. However, when a building is in perimeter lockdown, no one may leave or enter the building until there is an all clear. This is for your safety and the safety of your child.

Full Lockdown – This lockdown is used when there is a threat of imminent danger, violence, weapons, or other circumstances deemed dangerous. When a building is in full lockdown, every room is locked, blinds drawn, lights turned off and students are arranged where they are not visible. No movement takes place in the building until there is an all clear.

How will I know if my child's school is on lockdown?

When any of our buildings are on lockdown, local law enforcement will be involved. Please be assured that police and school administrators will work together to FIRST ensure the safety of everyone on the school campus. Once the situation has been stabilized, a phone message and/or email will be sent to parents to inform them the school was placed on lockdown, the nature of the incident and about how long the lockdown was in place. If there is a larger emergency, an emergency phone message will be sent and we will notify and update the local media as the situation develops.

Parents - How can you help?

1. Please understand that no one is allowed to enter or exit the building, so please do not come immediately to your child's school. Your child's school is a secure area. School officials and law enforcement are working together to keep everyone safe.
2. Parents are discouraged from calling the school directly as this could hinder our staff from their primary task: keeping everyone safe. Please know that we will communicate with you **as soon as possible** when the situation is stabilized.
3. Be sure your child's school has your most up-to-date contact information, including emergency contact information.

The safety of all of our (your) students is a **priority** for Charlotte Public Schools. Emergency drills are scheduled each year so staff and students are prepared to handle emergencies. We have updated our facilities to that end, including the recent approval by the Board of Education for the purchase and installation of Nightlock security devices in every classroom. If there is a need for a lockdown in the future, please join with us to help keep everyone safe. Thank you in advance for your

cooperation, patience and understanding should a lockdown become necessary in the future.