



Dear District 186 Families,

We would like to inform you of enhanced security procedures that will be instituted at all of our middle and high schools beginning this week. As part of our continued commitment to safety and security of our students and staff, a newly hired part-time security employee with a certified dog trained to detect guns, explosives and drugs will be conducting routine proactive searches of our middle and high schools.

The canine searches will be regularly scheduled at each middle and high school and will focus on common areas including hallways, cafeterias and lockers. This new protocol should serve as a deterrent for anyone considering bringing contraband into our buildings, as school and legal consequences for any findings will be enforced.

While there have been no new threats, we heard from many of you following recent incidents, and we share your frustrations and concerns, especially in the context of other world events we see on the news. The safety of our students and staff is always our chief priority, so we err on the side of caution in judging the credibility of threats and deciding how to respond in those critical first moments. This, unfortunately, has resulted in evacuations for threats that proved to be hoaxes, with countless District and community resources diverted and precious instructional time lost. These threats also took you away from your jobs and responsibilities and caused unnecessary worry.

As a result, we have continued to review and revise our processes in order to develop the most efficient and thorough protocols to keep our students safe and give you peace of mind. These proactive canine searches will help inform our decisions when we respond to threats and may help us avoid disruptions and limit the impact on our day-to-day operations.

This investment in security is one additional resource we have at our fingertips, and better positions us to deflect threats and maintain a school culture focused on learning and free from disruption. We will continue to fine-tune our efforts to make District 186 a safe and welcoming environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer E. Gill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jennifer E. Gill
Superintendent

JENNIFER E. GILL • Superintendent

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