



SHERIFF

SEMINOLE COUNTY

School Safety Division

We are excited to welcome you back for the 2023-2024 school year! We are looking forward to a safe year and want you to know that your child's safety and security has been and will always be our number one priority.

Everyone needs to play an active role in school safety. Students, staff and community members are encouraged to be observant and report any suspicious activity or behavior. There are several ways to report this information including directly to law enforcement or using the Speakout/P3 anonymous tip line. Remember, *If you See Something, Say Something, Do Something.*

The District utilizes a multi-layered approach to school safety including at least one School Resource Officer on each campus, physical security (locked doors, fencing, cameras, etc.), visitor screening, an all-hazard approach to emergency response and comprehensive training for all school staff. We also support fostering a positive school culture and climate.

School emergency response drills are completed regularly as required by statute on every school campus to prepare for all emergencies. This year we have been able to reduce the frequency of drills to have less impact on instructional time while ensuring our students know how to respond in any emergency. In Seminole County, we practice scenario-based drills that are age and developmentally appropriate. The purpose of these drills is to help children feel safe at school and teach them how to respond in an emergency situation.

If an emergency does occur, the District will provide communication in a timely and consistent manner with updates as the situation evolves. Please refer to your school's social media pages and the District website in addition to the email communications that will be sent. Please remember, unless directed to do so, **DO NOT** come to the campus during a critical incident. You will be provided with information on how, when and where to pick up your child.

As a parent, you are an important part of school safety too. Reassure your child that they are safe. Make time to speak with your children and let them talk to you about their feelings. Review safety procedures and ask them about their drills after they are conducted. Remind your child that if they have any information on a potentially dangerous situation, to report it. Encourage them to be an Upstander, not a Bystander. If a fight occurs on campus, teach them that it is important for them to seek help and not video tape the incident.

Social media is a part of so many of our lives. It is important to have conversations with your child on good digital citizenship and a reminder that what they post can have consequences. It is important that they report any concerning posts to administrators or law enforcement instead of spreading rumors. Please refrain from posting campus safety issues or shortcomings on social media. This activity has the potential of placing our children and staff at unnecessary risk. Instead, please report these and any school safety comments or concerns to school_safety@scps.k12.fl.us.

We wish you a safe and healthy school year!

Your School Safety & Security Team