

# LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2021-2022 School Year  
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**December 5, 2021**

## **Update from Superintendent Oquist**

Good Evening LPS Families,

I wanted to reach out and share with you that we look forward to welcoming back our students tomorrow and appreciate the continued support of all involved in our school community as we respond to the events of this past week.

We have seen heartwarming moments of care and community modeled throughout our district, signs that the most powerful way to emerge from a tragedy is to show the very best of our humanity. We do that by caring about one another, talking to each other, being patient with others and understanding that everyone responds uniquely to the events that transpire.

Additionally, please know that one of the other important elements of our work is to continuously review and refine our protocols for emergency preparedness, crisis communication/response and support for students, staff and families. That is our work both at the district level and in partnership with our schools. *Your children are our children when they are with us and we take that responsibility with great care and commitment.*

We ask that you please continue to communicate with your child/ren the importance of sharing their concerns, questions and of course, any knowledge they have about fellow students who may be in crisis. Each of our schools have staff members who are trained to respond to these needs. The district has made a significant investment in this area by adding school psychologists, school social workers and student assistance providers. In 2016-17, the district employed 8 school psychologists and now employs 16; social worker staff went from 9 to 14; two behavior interventionists were added; there is now one student assistance provider, school psychologist and one social worker dedicated to each high school and middle school; and each elementary school has two support teachers. In addition, our Student Services department continues to respond 24/7 to our Social Emotional Hotline which has been in place since the first day of closure during the COVID pandemic, and remains in place today. Support is here for our students, staff and families.

Importantly, we work hand in glove with our school resource officers, security personnel and local law enforcement on each and every report of threatening behavior brought to us. As I shared last Thursday, we are in close partnership with them and we will continue to be every step of the way. *In turn, we collectively ask that our students not*

*participate in the sharing of social media, texts, snapchat screenshots, etc with other students*, but rather with our school principals or other trusted adults in our schools. Not only is it disruptive and upsetting to fellow students and families when this is done, it pulls the resources of our law enforcement to address them. If you have concerns, please reach out to your child's school so we can address them.

Our Administrator of Public Safety touched base just a short time ago this evening with our local law enforcement officials and have confirmed that there are no threats to our schools. Again, we are thankful for the regular and ongoing communication with the LPD.

Finally, on a lighter note, congratulations to all of our school and community groups who were such troopers to walk and march in today's Merry & Bright parade, coordinated by the City of Livonia. It was wonderful to see our marching bands, athletic teams, scout groups, robotics teams, LPS transportation and so many more braving it in the rainy weather to share the holiday spirit with others!

Please know we remain steadfast in our commitment to your children and to our staff and families.

My best to you and your family,

Andrea Oquist  
Superintendent