



GALENA UNIFIED SCHOOLS DISTRICT #499

7 0 2 E A S T 7 T H S T R E E T - G A L E N A , K S 6 6 7 3 9 - 6 2 0 . 7 8 3 . 4 4 9 9

Areas of District Attention for School Safety

Student safety is a priority for us at Galena School District. Here is a list of some of our current actions to promote an even more safe environment in our schools.

1. Counselors are reviewing current anti-bullying activities/lessons/curriculum and reviewing information regarding Challenge Day and other possible programs.
2. Teachers and administrators have frequent conversations about supervision and visibility in the hallways during passing time.
3. A video surveillance camera has been added at the middle school. Additionally, our administrative team has evaluated a schematic drawing of the campus surveillance system and is developing recommendations for possible additions and/or modifications.
4. Administrators have investigated a variety of available vape detector options. In order to make a solid, long term decision, our team has researched the best product to meet our needs. Some of the variables in the process include types of detectors, installation requirements and possible vendor bidding requirements. The restrooms on our main campus are garnering attention.
5. District personnel and representatives from the Cherokee County Sheriff's office have coordinated efforts to utilize county K-9 units in an effort to prevent the presence of inappropriate substances on the middle school and high school campuses. A soft lockdown is ordered when the K-9 Unit is on campus for this purpose.
6. Providing public information after a school lockdown has been added to our procedures.
7. School staff have surveyed area schools' discipline grids related to bullying. The comparison of discipline steps taken by area schools is being used by the BOE in the process of reviewing our current policies.

Information related to bullying

Teachers are trained annually in identifying and preventing bullying in schools. The key to dealing with potential bullying situations is reporting to administrators, counselors or teachers as soon as possible so the incident can be properly investigated and addressed. Students are continuously reminded to report situations that might be dangerous or constitute bullying to an adult in the building. We investigate and address all concerns that are brought to our attention.

All circumstances are dealt with in a manner consistent with our policies and procedures with the intent to provide a safe learning environment and support students in developing respectful habits for dealing with each other. Please note that in these situations, there is always "more to the story" than school officials can share publicly as we are mandated under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to protect student identity and cannot disclose specific information about student behaviors and/or consequences.

What steps or actions can concerned parents take?

All parents are encouraged to continue work in a positive manner with school personnel. If you have concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher, counselor or building administrator. Dr. Moeller can be reached directly at trey.moeller@galena499.org or (620)783-4499.

Requests to be on the board agenda

We have a Board of Education Agenda Request form that outlines the procedures and guidelines for parents who seek to address the board. The process is based on the belief that these topics are best solved when parents, teachers and administrators work together toward a mutually agreed solution. Efforts to communicate with the school building team and the superintendent is a prerequisite for approval. The BOE officers and the superintendent will review requests then determine whether or not to place the requested item on the Board agenda to be heard. The submission of a request form does not guarantee an audience with the Board.