



## SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

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**JOEL STONER**

*Human Resource Director*

November 16, 2016

Recently we were made aware of the arrest of Tyler Lewis, as you may have noticed in the media. We are all troubled by the information that we have read concerning the situation. Our goal and purpose is to allow the legal process to work itself out while resisting participation in rumor or innuendo. The facts will present themselves as time passes. Our thoughts and energies are committed to supporting one another as we process these events.

These events have caused us to revisit some procedures and practices. Our goal is, and always has been, to create a fun and safe environment for all of our players and crew. We believe we have done well here and are committed to continuing that excellence. We have; however, identified two practices that we feel will be wise to implement and will look to do so immediately.

First of all, we will adopt a buddy system for adults and children. There is power and safety in numbers. In so being, we expect that no child will be alone with adults and no adults will be alone with children at any time or in any place. Secondly, all players and crew 18 years old or older will be required to complete a criminal background check permission form. The Director of Human Resources, Joel Stoner, will review the results and all content will be held in a confidential manner. All rules will be applied in a similar manner as we apply for our parents and community members who desire to volunteer or work with children in our schools.

As stated, we have always done well to emphasize fun, community and safety. We see nothing changing regarding that now or going forward. We have built an amazing drama community that is a point of pride in the Sparta community. We will carry forward and bring exceptional quality and entertainment to our audience, together.

With care at this difficult time,

Joel Stoner  
Director of Human Resources  
Sparta Area Schools