



David Rabbideau, Superintendent of Schools

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TO: All APS Families

From: David Rabbideau, Superintendent

DATE: August 16, 2022

RE: APS Security Enhancements for the 2022-2023 School Year

I hope all is well with you and your families. It is hard to believe, but staff returns to the district next week, and our students return on August 29th!

I know that school safety and security are on everyone's mind as we return to school, so I wanted to share with you the changes and improvements we are making to ensure that our students and staff are safe and secure when they return to school.

Alpena Public Schools holds the safety of our students and staff as our highest priority. From the passage of the Safe, Warm, Dry Bond to additional investments in school safety, APS is continuously improving our ability to provide a safe and welcoming environment at each of our buildings.

We will be implementing several changes/updates in our practices for the 2022-2023 school year. APS has been working closely with law enforcement, first responders, emergency management personnel, and school safety experts, as well as utilizing feedback from our staff and community, to develop these changes.

Here is a list of some of the expectations that will be in place when students, staff and visitors return to the district:

- Doors
 - All exterior doors will be locked and closed at all times.
 - All doors used for entry and exit will be monitored by a staff member.
 - Exterior doors may never be propped open.
 - Students and staff may not open an exterior door to let anyone into the building.
 - Classroom doors will be locked at all times.
 - Classroom doors, when locked, may be open to the hallway.
 - The district will provide a mechanism to allow the door to be locked, yet not latch if in the closed position.
 - All glass in and around classroom doors must be covered so the interior of classrooms is not visible from hallways.

- Entering a Building
 - All visitors and students entering a building during the school day must do so only at designated secure entries.

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- Badges and Guest Passes
 - All APS staff must wear identification badges while at work. Badges must be prominently displayed (not hidden by clothing).
 - All visitors must have a guest pass on while in an APS school building.
 - Please report any adult that does not have a badge or pass visible to the building administration.
- Backpacks
 - In grades 6-12, backpacks will remain in lockers during the school day. Students may carry a string bag, small purse, satchel, or laptop case. These items should be no larger than needed to carry their Chromebook (15"x 12").
- Training
 - On **August 25th**, **All Staff** will receive Michigan State Police Active Shooter Training.
 - The district will be providing additional emergency response training throughout the school year.

The district is working hard to make sure that we communicate effectively, especially on matters of school safety. You can expect regular communication throughout the year updating you on our efforts to continuously improve the safety and security of our buildings.

I look forward to welcoming you back to Alpena Public Schools for the 2022-23 school year!

