

August 21, 2019

Dear Parents-

As you begin traveling back to our schools for the 2019-2020 school year, Pitt County Schools would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents, students and families. Periodically, we share updates regarding safety and security efforts within our school system. This summer, our Facilities Department has been busy continuing our ongoing efforts to add protective measures for the safety of our students and staff. As a result, you may notice a few physical enhancements to our school buildings and procedures. Please be aware of the following reminders of continued procedures, as well as *new updates*, as you enter and exit our schools:

All of our schools have a buzzer system outside the main entrance to the school. With school entrance doors locked, a visitor can only gain access by pressing a button and sharing a reason for the school visit. A staff member inside the secured building can view the visitor through a security camera and appropriately allow entrance to the visitor.

Once a visitor has been buzzed into a building, the visitor enters a secure corridor in most schools. A secure corridor is an additional set of locked doors between the main entrance and the rest of the school, limiting the visitor's access to the main office and/or check-in desk. This double-verification entry system ensures that only those who have a legitimate and purposeful need to enter our school buildings are granted access to our students and staff. *Many schools have been newly outfitted with secure corridors this summer, and we appreciate your support and patience as we have transitioned to new patterns and procedures for entry.*

Once inside a secure corridor or main office area, our staff members will utilize our district's Raptor visitor management system (raptortech.com/parent). Raptor requires visitors to our campuses to provide valid, state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the system. Once entry is approved by staff, a printed badge is issued that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit. A visitor's badge will not be necessary for those who visit our schools simply to drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork.

We continue to ensure that safety and security is of the highest priority in Pitt County Schools. In addition to physical enhancements to our buildings, many of our administrators, School Resource Officers (SROs) and other school personnel received recent emergency response and trauma-informed care training. Other security measures are still in place such as security cameras and monitoring, lockdown drills, trauma-informed care, and our "*See Something? Say Something!*" tipline, accessible through our website and the PCS mobile app.

Thank you for trusting us with your child and for your continued support of Pitt County Schools.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ethan Lenker, Superintendent