

Palmer Middle School

Cobb County School District *"One Team, One Goal: Student Success"*

Lisa F. Jackson
Principal

March 2, 2018

Dear Palmer Families,

Your child's safety is our top priority at Palmer Middle School and I want to share some of the measures we take to keep our school safe:

- All staff members are trained on what to do during an emergency situation.
- We have a front door lock system at the main entrance where visitors "buzz-in" and are greeted by front office staff before entering the building.
- All other exterior doors are locked throughout the school day.
- Students participate in safety drills, to include fire drills, severe weather, and code red drills, throughout the school year.
- Security cameras are located throughout the campus.
- We have a Campus Resource Officer who is post-certified (same training as CCPD) and fully equipped.
- Teachers keep their classroom doors locked while in their classrooms.

What can you do to help?

- To check in/out your student, go directly to the Attendance Office and be prepared to show your identification.
- For other visits, report directly to the front office, sign in and get a visitor's badge (keep visible at all times).
- When you buzz in, please respond to front office greeters so they know where to direct your visit.
- Please do not open doors for other visitors behind you. Each visitor should ring the buzzer and be let in by the front office staff.
- Escort any adult who does not have a CCSD badge or visitor's sticker to the front office to sign in.

Throughout the school year we review our safety drills with our students. By working together as a team, we will be able to keep our children safe.

On March 14th, we will honor the memory of the victims from the Parkland tragedy by having a special moment of silence on the morning announcements. In addition, during the fifth academic class, students will participate in a lesson reviewing and discussing our safety procedures for all emergency drills. As part of that discussion, we will be stressing the "why" behind procedures and expectations. The lesson will be designed to give students a voice as a way to honor all victims of school tragedies.

In addition, as the Cobb County School District has posted on its website, it is aware of the desire of some students to participate in a demonstration of empathy for the lives lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL on February 14th. The Cobb County School District leadership want to work with students to identify the best methods to accomplish this demonstration of empathy without interruption of normal school operation, which is a policy violation and potentially jeopardizes student and staff safety. The District does not support or endorse walkouts/protests that cause interruption to normal school operations. It is our goal that through our lesson on March 14th that students will be able to demonstrate empathy without putting themselves and staff members at risk. We encourage you to have a similar conversation with your child at home as well.

As always, we appreciate your support and partnership with us to reach our mission of *"Empowering ALL students for SUCCESS"* as well as making Palmer a safe and positive place for our children to learn.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa F. Jackson". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lisa F. Jackson
Principal