

# Beal City Public Schools

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December 3, 2021

Dear Aggie Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

Our hearts are heavy following Tuesday's tragic school shooting in Oxford, Michigan. While all acts of school violence are horrific, this one hits a little closer to home for many of us here in Michigan. We offer our sincere thoughts and prayers to all students, families, school employees and community members of Oxford Community Schools.

A letter was sent by our Power Announcement on Thursday from myself and the rest of the GIRESD Superintendents in the region. I wanted to be a little more specific for you from a Beal City perspective. At Beal City Public Schools, your child's safety and well-being remains our number one priority. We understand some of our families, employees and students may have questions about what measures we are taking at BCPS to help protect our staff and students during an active shooter and/or other emergency.

The district has made several safety enhancements over the past few years, thanks to the support of our community. The 2017 and 2021 bond projects provided new secure office entrances at each building, upgrades to our camera and security systems, emergency door locks, along with other security enhancements.

BCPS has also implemented ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) training with our staff and students. Training and drills take place three times a year in all of our buildings. Students and staff are trained to be on the lookout for the "intruder" and immediately contact authorities. Our elementary schools also have copies of the book "I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared" to teach our younger students about ALICE in an age-appropriate manner. We will be having another drill after winter break and we will again review ALICE training with our students and staff.

We want to be sure our students know who to turn to if they are concerned for their own safety or that of their classmates. I am proud of our district's fast response to potentially unsafe or emergency situations in the past. We recommend families and parents to speak with their children about the importance of immediately reporting any threatening behavior, whether it occurs during the school day, after school, on school grounds or on social media. Students should understand that engaging in threatening behavior or bringing a weapon to school can result in serious consequences including expulsion from school.

We know there are lots of things about these types of situation we can't control. However, we had an assembly this week to talk about things we can control. Things we can do to help each other stay safe and feel valued. Here are a few excerpts from the message that was read to our secondary students during that assembly.

### **Never Again, This Must Stop Assembly Message**

*Folks this is a big complicated issue that has a ton of parts and many things that are out of our control but we can control a few things and that is what I want to talk about for just a few moments so please please please listen.*

*Look around the room, go ahead and look around this room. Look right and look into that persons eyes, look left, look into that persons eyes. Look at the person in front of you, turn around and look at the person behind you, look into their eyes. Folks we must value life. These are our friends and classmates our teachers in some cases our family.*

## **Beal City Schools**

**"In Harmony with Home and Community" ~ "No Better Place to Learn"**

Beal City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status in the provision of educational opportunities or employment opportunities and benefits

in compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

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*We must stop the violence once and for all. Join the Oxford, Michigan students, Unite against violence. Value life, Value each other, Value your education for a better life. Value your friends and classmates. Value your family and your faith whatever it may be. (Never Again, This Must Stop, Never Again, This Must Stop, Never Again, This Must Stop.)*

*We are all Aggies \* We help each other \* We encourage one another \* We care about each other.*

*If you need any kind of help please seek out an adult and talk to them and if they can't help you themselves, we will find someone to help you somehow some way. I promise you that.*

*Remember the OK 2 Say program. There is info on our website. If you see something say something. If you read something say something, If you hear something say something. Speak up and help yourself and each other. Someone will listen.*

*Listen to the things your mother has said to you since you were little.*

- o *If you don't have anything nice to say, then please don't say anything at all.*
- o *Nice matters.*
- o *Treat people like you want to be treated, show respect to get respect....and the list goes on and on.*

*We simply need a reminder that we as people can NOT continue to treat each other in this callous violent manor anymore. Again Aggies care about each other, Aggies help each other, Aggies encourage each other.*

*If you are a student and you come to this school to learn you can do that and know someone here cares about you and respects you. If you are a teacher and you come to this school to teach know you can do that and feel respected by students who also care about you.*

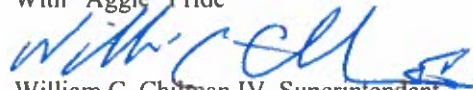
Finally, we want to make sure our students feel comfortable reporting any potential threats to a trusted adult in our school buildings. Additionally, anyone from our community can report tips confidentially 24-7 through OK2SAY, a statewide student safety program. You can submit a tip by calling 8-555-OK2SAY, texting 652729 (OK2SAY), or email [OK2SAY@mi.gov](mailto:OK2SAY@mi.gov) and all tips will be reviewed and investigated.

Families may find the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) website to be a helpful resource for ways to speak with children about yesterday's events.

We have student support staff, including school counselors, available to help students and staff who may be upset, scared or grieving due to this tragedy.

Please do not hesitate to contact your school principal or Central office anytime if you have questions about our school safety measures, practices or procedures. Working together, we're hopeful we can all do our part to prevent school violence and make our schools safe havens for teaching and learning. Thank you for all you do to support our schools and community!

With "Aggie" Pride



William C. Chilman IV, Superintendent  
Beal City Public Schools, Go Aggies

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