



*Watervliet Public Schools*

450 E. Red Arrow Hwy • Watervliet, MI 49098

Kevin Schooley, Superintendent

Susan Toothman, Director of Curriculum K-12

and State/Federal Programs

Phone: (269) 463-0300

FAX: (269) 463-6809

[www.watervlietps.org](http://www.watervlietps.org)

February 28, 2018

Dear Parents,

We too often hear and read about school tragedy and the loss of precious lives due to senseless acts of violence. Students, parents, and those of us in education look at these tragedies and our hearts break for those impacted. We then, naturally, begin to examine what is closer to home and our children. We are doing this at Watervliet Public Schools now.

While the safety of all children is our foremost concern, and really was before my time as your superintendent, it is a time we evaluate our policies and practices relative to school safety. I have enlisted the assistance of our local police chief and school resource officer to assist with this effort and have identified short and long term ideas to improve our school environment. Outside of our practice drills, entry/exit systems to buildings, surveillance, the addition of our school resource officer, and vigilance, communication and reporting concerning behavior is vital to maintaining a safe environment. I would encourage you to talk with your child about reporting disturbing behavior to school staff, it is important. In addition, I would also encourage you to talk to your child about making, what may seem like a benign comment, that is threatening or making light of school violence. This phenomenon seems to be running through the country and I'm not sure kids realize how impactful this is to the school, to communities, and ultimately, to them.

This is a wonderful community with great kids and families and we want to do our part in leading and keeping it that way. Please keep an eye out for additional information from me and our principals about school safety.

Sincerely,

Kevin Schooley  
Superintendent