



Le Roy Central School District

2-6 Trigon Park
Le Roy, New York 14482

Merritt Holly, Superintendent of Schools
mholly@leroycsd.org

Phone (585) 768-8133
Fax (585) 768-5505

March 13, 2018

Le Roy Central School District Parents/Guardians and School Community –

This Wednesday, March 14, 2018, marks the one month anniversary of the tragedy in Parkland, Florida. We are in a very peculiar time in our country, state, and local area. The senseless shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has directly impacted our school systems, children, and adults, while we attempt to navigate a safe learning environment for all students. There have been 18 school shootings since January 1, 2018. This is unacceptable for a country that prides itself on being a leader in the world. Obviously, these events have not changed human behavior and it is up to us as parents to create change.

We all know that change is difficult at many levels in our society and sometimes nearly impossible. The change I am seeking or asking for in our community does not need legislative approval or more funding to make it happen. Change has to come through us, the parents and adults in our community.

A small parent group reached out to me two weeks ago and asked to meet and discuss how they as parents could provide support to keep our schools safe. On Wednesday, February 28, 2018, a small group of eager parents, local law enforcement, three Le Roy Board of Education members, and district administration met to discuss parental support of school safety initiatives. Here is a very quick summary of our discussion notes (created by Laura Williams, parent representative, and myself):

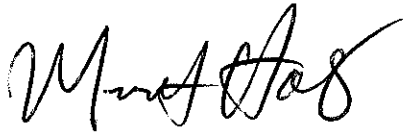
1. We, as parents, need to be very diligent at ensuring that we are monitoring and keeping up-to-date with our child's social media, online activity, and video games. They are savvy. As technologically advanced as we may THINK we are, they are more likely better. To that end, parents will look to partner with the school district for community-oriented training sessions led by our students or other support groups to help parents better understand the ins and outs of social media, online technology, and gaming.
2. Mental health and the well-being of all of our kids is a priority of the school district. With that being said, this is an area of constant improvement, but will likely take the most effort and time on all of our part. This is a life-long process that has far more potential for parental support. We need to make mental and emotional support for our kids a top priority. This would also include creating a home to school partnership to support those students who feel like they don't belong.

The mission of the Le Roy Central School District is to provide an exceptional, high quality educational environment where all learners are empowered to succeed.

3. Instill in our students the need to speak up right away and tell a trusted adult at home, at school, or in the community when they see something they know or feel that is not right. **This includes understanding the difference between tattling on someone and reporting unusual or concerning behavior.** When students come forward, it is our job as parents and a school to protect them for doing the right thing.
4. As parents and adults, we have to continue supporting district policies that are specifically designed to ensure our students' safety even if we are not completely aware of their intent. The school's top priority is to ensure the safest environment possible for our students. So, when parking, using cell phones, signing in/out, dropping students off early before the start of school, becomes an inconvenience for us, please remember the safety purpose and rationale behind it. These are just a few examples and much of this information is shared throughout the year. Please take time to read each building principal's weekly updates which are filled with academic, safety, and extra-curricular information for your child.

Lastly, I completely understand the parental concerns about the timeliness of my communication last Thursday. From my perspective, I hope that you can understand that there are going to be times and situations that do not allow for communication right away. Last Thursday was one of those days. I am asking for your trust in us, our policies and procedures, and that we will get information out as soon as it is permissible. It is in the best interest for all of our students and school that some things are not for public knowledge.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child each day.



Merritt Holly
Superintendent of Schools
Le Roy Central School District