

Security Cameras

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Reed City Area Public Schools

Reed City Area Public Schools has recently installed video security cameras in the High School and Norman Elementary. The cameras at the high school cover the entrances, hallways, cafeteria and gymnasium. The Norman Elementary cameras cover the entrances.

The color cameras are digital and record activity to a hard drive in a file server and that data is then sent to an archive server. The cameras provide 24-hour surveillance of the buildings.

The camera system provides the school officials with another tool in the continuing efforts to keep the schools safe. With reduced staffing in the evening hours, the cameras will keep an electronic copy of what transpired throughout the night.

The system allows time searches from the video archives. For example, if something occurred between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. on a given day then that time period can be called up to be reviewed as needed. A report can be printed with any frame of the video showing the activity with the date and time stamp. The video clip can also be recorded to a CD if needed.

They act as a crime deterrent. It is a proven fact that people are less likely to commit a crime if they know that they are being watched. If students are aware of the fact that their school is being monitored, vandalism and other acts of violence may be greatly reduced. In addition, in the event a crime is caught in action, emergency officials will be better able to contain the situation. The system in place is also capable of off-site monitoring.

The cameras instill a sense of security for both parents and students. It is a comfort to many to know that their school is being monitored on a daily basis. Office personnel can see who is entering their buildings during normal school hours and also who has entered after school hours.

Locked doors being intentionally propped open for access at a later date will now be recorded and the appropriate action taken to stop this from happening.

In this post Columbine era, many schools have moved to video cameras as an additional step to ensure the safety of their students and staff.