

*Laurie J. Gaylord, Superintendent*

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

500 East Ocean Blvd • Stuart, Florida 34994 • Telephone (772) 219-1200 Ext: 30222 • Facsimile: (772) 219-1231



Dear Parent:

As we all continue to process and grieve the senseless act in our neighboring county, I would like to address the safety of our schools. The Martin County School District (MCSD) will continue to collaborate with law enforcement to maintain safety across all of our school campuses. The MCSD currently employs numerous safety measures including School Resource Officers (SRO), active shooter training and drills, and single point of entry at every school campus. We are committed to a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff.

The MCSD has been working to train all employees in a pro-active, options based active shooter response plan, ALICE. There are over 50 District certified trainers and we are requiring all employees complete the ALICE Active Shooter E-Learning Training. Currently, approximately 90% of the staff has completed the first phase. If you are interested in learning more about ALICE in our schools, the ALICE Training Institute is offering a free webinar to parents in Florida, tomorrow Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at noon. This will serve as a preview before our schools host their own ALICE Family Night. Please visit our website at [martinschools.org](http://martinschools.org) for the link to sign up.

I have asked Principals to review their safety protocols and procedures with their staff and have encouraged them to work with the SROs to make any necessary and reasonable changes to their campuses to ensure security. Additionally, we will be conducting thorough vulnerability assessments of all of our schools and sites and will identify areas that need immediate attention. All work orders related to the security of campuses will be reviewed and prioritized including, but not limited to, security cameras, locks, keys, fences, gates and other items identified by the Principal, Facilities and Maintenance.

MCSD is in the process of launching a new app called CrisisGo, which is a dual mass notification system. With this dual functionality, school staff will be immediately notified of any emergency on their classroom computer and/or their cell phone. This will allow for maximum response time and increased safety for staff, students and even visitors.

I am proud of the activities our staff and students have already initiated supporting the Marjory Stoneman Douglas students. The entire Martin County community has always come together in the interest of our students and community. From letters and drawings of support, beautiful pottery, to monetary donations, our school community continues to offer support and love during this time of crisis.

In the midst of this tragedy, it is important that parents speak regularly with their child(ren) about the appropriate use of social media. I would like to take this opportunity to remind

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parents and students that false threat(s) on social media or on campus are a crime and necessary action will be taken by the School District and the Martin County Sheriff's Office.

I would like to thank the Martin County Sheriff's Office and the Stuart Police Department who have supported our schools with additional patrols and officers on or around our campuses. I called a meeting with the Unified Command, which included county and city managers, law enforcement and emergency services to continue the conversation regarding safety in our schools. I can assure you that safety is and remains a priority for me and our community leaders.

Thank you for your continued support of the Martin County School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie J. Gaylord". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "G".

Laurie J. Gaylord  
Superintendent