



**Dave Bond**, Superintendent

**Dr. Chuck Lybeck**, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum

**Ron Williamson**, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education

**Greg Fancher**, Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education

**Beverly Johnson-Torelli**, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

**Ron Cone**, Executive Director, Information Technology

**Lorraine Cooper**, Director, Communications and Public Relations

**Vic Roberts**, Executive Director, Business Operations

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Here in the Kennewick School District, we want you to know that our first priority is the safety of your children. We are committed to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment for students as we strive to deliver the highest quality education possible. As we begin a new school year, I would like to take a moment to inform you of some initiatives the Kennewick School District is implementing to enhance the security and safety of our schools.

Our first safety initiative is the installation of new security systems in all of our school buildings. The system includes cameras both inside and outside of the school and an automated locking system with remote monitoring and operation capability. With the exception of Eastgate, all of our elementary schools are scheduled to have the new systems installed by the beginning of this school year. Eastgate Elementary is scheduled to be rebuilt in the 2014-2015 school year and the security systems will be included in the new building. Our goal is to have the new security systems in place in all of our secondary schools by the end of the school year.

All of our schools practice at least three lockdown drills each year. Most often, when a school goes into a lockdown, it is at the request of our local police department as a precaution when they are operating in the neighborhood. Our schools also practice three fire evacuation drills and three additional safety drills each that test our mapping systems and emergency plans.

Our second initiative is to improve bus safety. Students told us through our annual student safety survey last year that this is an area where they feel less secure. In response, we have equipped all of our buses with security cameras, and bus drivers will be receiving special training on how to diffuse situations that arise on the bus to help prevent unsafe behaviors from happening. In addition, we have placed anti-bullying posters in our buses that include information on accessing our AnonymousTips.Com website for reporting incidents of unsafe behavior and bullying.

We take bullying seriously in our district. If a student is heard to be making violent threats directed at staff or other students, the district will take disciplinary measures according to our established policies and procedures. Please, take time now to talk to your children about the consequences of what they say, do, text, or post on social media sites. Those consequences can, and have, included expulsion from school and notification to the police. Additionally, please direct your child to notify a teacher or principal if he or she—or someone they know—is being threatened or bullied.

Working together, we can provide a safe learning environment for all children in the Kennewick School District. If you have any questions or a concern regarding the safety and security in your child's school, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Dave Bond  
Superintendent