



BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

From the Office of the Principal

School safety has been in the forefront of our minds lately. While the recent incidents we have faced have been challenging, I am very pleased with the safety plans that we have in place, and the overarching desire by everyone to continue to improve in any way we can to protect our students, faculty and staff, and the consistent support of our parents and stakeholders.

Here is one thing I want to stress to each and every one of our parents....schools are safe places, especially Bishop Chatard. At Bishop Chatard, we work with many public safety providers such as local police, fire departments, and emergency responders to keep your children safe. We are constantly having conversations on how to protect our students. Their safety is priority number one.

We believe our school building is safe for a number of reasons. We have detailed school safety plans. We routinely practice fire, tornado, and active shooter drills. We have over 30 cameras that monitor all areas of our school and we recently received a \$20,000 matching grant for school safety to add cameras, provide better access door security and upgrade our security technology infrastructure. We are also blessed to have Mr. Vince Lorenzano who serves as our Director of Safety. He is a valuable resource to our school, and is considered a school safety leader within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis because of his numerous school safety certifications.

I am also pleased to share with you that for the remainder of the year we will have two IMPD officers from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on duty. One IMPD officer will patrol from 3:30 to 10:30 p.m. and then our regular night officers will do their normal security until 5:00 a.m. Also, we will continue to have administrators strategically placed during drop-off and pick-up. Classes in the SBC have been moved to our main building for the remainder of this school year and plans are under way to make this a more workable long term solution for the coming school year.

I also want to take this time to remind you that all of us, parents and students, play a role in school safety. I would ask that each of you continue to be observant and let an administrator or teacher know if you see or hear something that makes you feel

uncomfortable, nervous or frightened. There is a difference between reporting, tattling or gossiping. In recent weeks many students and adults provided important information to me that was valuable in keeping our school safe. We will continue to ask our students and parents to tell administrators and teachers what they know or hear.

Our students will continue to be reminded to not provide building access to anyone, to report strangers on campus, to report threats to the proper adults, and to communicate any personal safety concerns.

Another important way we can keep our school safe is by encouraging our students to access support for their emotional needs. Asking for help or steering a friend towards help, is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength. And, on that note, please know that our school social worker Mrs. Becky Wilde and our entire school counseling staff are available should your child need them.

Parents, I want to assure you that the adults in this building will continue to work hard to keep your children safe. Thank you for listening and for playing your role in keeping our school safe.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Hansen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "God bless,".