

From: Omar Alvarez, Crisis Response Manager

STCS Parents,

This is a long communication, grab some coffee and a notepad and read it.

Questions regarding security have come up recently and folks want to know what is going on, what's been done, what's being done and who is this mysterious man that sends charming and hilarious e-mails?

- I'm a former federal officer from US Customs and Border Protection, along with inspections, part of my duties was the Tactical Mobile Response Team, yes its as cool as it sounds. As Crisis Manager, I am unarmed nor a AZ certified peace officer. Neither is my expertise in campus security so I'm taking online courses for Emergency Management set up through the AZ Department of Education, reading, researching and developing systems to help augment what is being done by the consulting group. I'm preparing drills, training of the faculty and act as liaison for law enforcement, emergency services, security companies and Helios (see below). I took the additional assignment of Crisis Manager in April along with my duties of managing the buses; I'm also EMT certified.

- I have two children that attend STCS and I've come to know a large majority of your children over the last year, for the most part, they're great kids. The point is that my job is to protect my kids along with yours, I'm not going to stand back and allow something to happen on campus. I'm taking this very seriously.

- Since about March, Fr. Chuck, Dr. Dertinger, and myself have worked alongside The Helios Group (<https://theheliosgroup.com/>), a security consulting firm that have multiple clients in the valley. Helios has done an assessment of the campus and are finishing a report to present to us very soon. The major project that's being held up is the camera and PA system that they are still negotiating with vendors for a bid. They were tasked with obtaining bids from at least three different vendors but their standard was not met with a lot and, of course, is taking time.

- In July, Phoenix Police (School Resource Officer section) came and did an additional survey on the campus and are also finalizing their report. As you can imagine, police and multiple law enforcement agencies and their resources are being utilized with enhancements of school security all over the valley, so it is taking time. The head of the SRO surveying section just finished a course in Quantico with the FBI and Homeland Security concerning the enhancement of school security and that information is being disseminated to the area schools.

- Both Helios and the Phoenix Police stated that our campus is already one of the safest they have seen so these soon-to-be implemented improvements will make it that much safer.

- These changes and information that we obtain are taking time to sort and place into protocol. As we move forward, it's important that our bases are covered and basic measures need to be met. As parents and families of the school, there are some immediate changes you can make to aid in that:

- 1) SET Training (you only have one more day, by the way).
- 2) Awareness of the children during pick-up and drop-off; (stay off your phones).
- 3) Awareness and confronting of unfamiliar people on school property.
- 4) Checking in with the front office when you come onto the school grounds even if you are going to the Pre-School, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten areas.
- 5) Unless you are on campus for a medical emergency for your child, delivery/pick-up of multiple/large items or any other special circumstance do not park in the staff parking lot; there is a safety hazard for children and there is also no room.
- 6) Following rules and procedures laid out by the administration despite the inconvenience it may place on you in addition to new ones coming up in the following months.

- The situation with the vehicle gates has been resolved and last week the company came out and ensured all components are in working order.

- Also last week, the Phoenix Fire Department did an inspection of the access points they use in the situation they ever need to enter in an emergency; it was all in working order.

- For school events, faculty and staff will continue to conduct visual inspections of the area that students will occupy to ensure there are no safety issues.

- Expect 1-2 school note articles (not as long) a month throughout the year giving updates and new procedures.

- "If you see something, say something." --- Not just a catchy slogan, a vital component of security.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.