



February 23, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The safety and well-being of our staff and students is my conviction and always has been. At KCCC, we have been and still are deeply committed to providing a welcoming, safe and professional environment where teachers can teach, and students can succeed.

In light of recent events in our country, I want to make you aware of the many steps we have in place and ask for your help.

KCCC has a School Resource Officer (SRO) who is an armed Mount Vernon Police Officer. We share him at this time with Mount Vernon High School and Middle School. In the past few years, we have invested in updated security cameras, added an area of perimeter fencing, and introduced student and staff IDs. All entrance doors to the high school and preschool are secured throughout the day. Visitors to our building must be buzzed in and then utilize a new online guest badging system. Our students and staff are trained in ALICE and have drills simulating different scenarios throughout the school year. Our staff receives regular training, and our SRO and administrators attend training by professionals frequently. We have a building and district-wide safety plans that were written with assistance by Homeland Security personnel. These plans are reviewed at least once a year and updated as needed throughout the year. We utilize our School Messenger call system to contact you via phone and text.

I know that you realize we care about your child. We work diligently to ensure their success as students and as working adults. Please know that we work just as hard to provide them a safe environment each day.

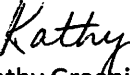
We are asking for your help. We need to partner together more intentionally than ever. We have talked often to our students about being a team and keeping our building and their labs and classrooms safe. We've encouraged them to inform a staff member if they hear anyone talking about harming themselves or someone else or if they notice someone acting suspicious or chemically impaired. We so appreciate them working to keep their school safe. We need you to encourage your student to tell you and us when they pick up on something that might not be right or when someone is really hurting. We all need to be tuned into our kids and those around them. We have counselors on staff and work with agencies that are willing to assist students in ANY situation.

We also need your help to encourage your student to do simple things like wearing their IDs daily, close outside doors that might be standing open talk to a staff member when they see someone on our grounds that doesn't belong, etc.

As an educator and a mom of a current KCCC student, I'm earnestly seeking your assistance in joining with us to keep an environment where our students are alert but not fearful; a place where they can focus on learning and having fun with their friends.

If we can answer any questions for you, please let us know. I couldn't list all of the security steps we have in place or that we are planning. Just know that safety and security have been on our radar for a long time and will continue to be. Keeping our kids safe is not reactionary, it's what we feel is important. We appreciate you choosing to send your child to us each day.

Working with you to educate and protect our kids,


Kathy Greenich
Superintendent
Knox County Career Center Schools
Preschool-High School-Knox Technical Center

Please note: The local SWAT team will be in our building on Monday. They have asked to review our hall layout. We always welcome law enforcement in our building. I didn't want you to hear the SWAT team was here and become alarmed.