

Principal's Report
PTA Meeting
2.21.18

Student safety is on all of our minds, especially following the tragic events in Florida last week. Creating a safe and welcoming environment for our students and staff is the most important job that we all share. If students don't feel safe then they will not learn to the best of their ability. Our mission statement emulates the emphasis we put on creating an inclusive and supportive environment for our learners. We need to keep the *whole child* focus at the forefront of all we do, both in and out of school. It truly does take a village.

In order for our children to feel this sense of security, we must reassure them that they are safe. We must keep our adult concerns, conversations, and opinions private from them. Children will follow our lead. Our lead must be to create confident, happy children. I know you all have concerns as parents. I have them myself, both as a mother of a Farmersville student, and as the leader of this great school. We must work together to share our concerns and observations with each other in a constructive and respectful way. I welcome your input and your suggestions. There is no rule book when dealing with tragedies such as these.

I want to review the ongoing steps that are already in place to keep our children safe and address the needs of the *whole* child. These items are constantly being assessed and revised, often after incidents like the one that occurred last week. It is from failure that we grow.

1. Strong relationship with first responders and central office.
2. Staff and student preparedness training.
3. Controlled access/monitoring.
4. Volunteer clearances.
5. Student Assistance Program (SAP/CST)
6. Strong community relations and family involvement (PTA)
7. Ongoing reflection and revision of processes.
8. A staff that genuinely cares about our students.

While we can never anticipate all of the possible scenarios that we may face, I am confident that we are doing everything within reason to create the safe and welcoming learning environment that our children need to succeed and be happy. Please know that my door is always open to you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Jennifer Hilton
Principal
Farmersville Elementary