

Safety in Our School

The horrific shootings that have become far too common over the past years in schools, houses of worship, public venues, retail stores and in our communities raises many questions for children (and grown-ups, too). Who would do such a thing? Why? How can I be sure this won't happen to my family? Is anyone really safe? Trying to understand a senseless act is difficult, but for children it's even harder to understand. In the wake of the school shooting in Nashville, parents face the challenging task of how to talk to their children about what happened. We need to be especially cautious when trying to explain these senseless acts of violence to children with special needs.

We want reassure our families that we take the safety, security, and emotional well being of our children very seriously. Below are the safety measures we have in place.

The following safety measures are in place to guard our campus from intruders:

- The perimeter of the campus is gated
- The school buildings and play areas are 400 feet away from Coral Way (the main street)
- The playground area is hidden from sight behind the school building
- All exterior building doors are locked and can't be accessed from the outside
- School gate closes at 8:45 am and reopens at 2:50 pm for dismissal
- The campus is under 24 Hour Video Surveillance

Updated Security Measures:

- The front door to the school building will lock at 8:45 am and remain locked during after school care.
- All food, UPS and Mail deliveries will be left on a cart at the entrance of the school. Drivers will not be allowed in the building.
- Parents who are picking up their child before dismissal must wait outside the school entrance to be allowed in the building.
- Staff have been issued audible Panic Buttons to keep with them when outside and in the classroom in case of an emergency. The panic buttons alert police of an intruder on our campus.

No one knows your child better than you. It's important to talk to our children about dangerous things, places, and situations and how best to avoid or deal with such dangers. Keep an open line of communication with your children to address their fears and concerns. Keep the conversation simple and age appropriate. Don't hold discussions with younger children at night since this might give them nightmares. Monitor their use of social media. Validate their feelings and let them know that it's OK to feel scared or concerned.

We live in a world where there is good and bad. An even if we can't change the world, we can try and make the world a better place by teaching our children and practicing in our families compassion, kindness, tolerance, and understanding to those around us.