



KALAMAZOO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Undeniably Christian. Academically Excellent.

School Safety

School Safety is a very serious and important topic that unfortunately gets noticed when tragedy hits. As a school we constantly think about how to keep our students, staff and visitors as safe as possible. While we can never prevent all forms of evil we can do our best to make it very difficult for events to occur.

We just recognized the year anniversary of the Oxford High School shooting and we can still remember the Uvalde tragedy. We pray that these events never strike the Kalamazoo community and specifically the Kalamazoo Christian Schools. However, we continue to be as vigilant as possible to make sure we increase our efforts to protect those in our care.

As a result, we have been able to increase security measures at both the 12th Street campus and our High School. Over the summer we had an independent audit completed on both campuses of areas that we are doing well and areas where we can improve our safety. The administration also had a meeting with the Kalamazoo Public Safety office to go over Active Shooter situations. Here are a few other areas we have addressed.

- 1) We installed the **Raptor visitor management system** at both locations a couple of years ago to help us monitor those who are in our buildings. This system does a quick background check to make sure no one is with students who has a criminal history or is on the national sex offender registry. The level of involvement with our students will initiate the level of background check that is conducted.
- 2) We just completed a two year project at a cost of \$120,000 to move our **High School office** to the front entrance of the High School. Visitors must pass through the main entrance to gain entry to the building and students now check in and out at this location. This added layer of security enhances the safety of the physical building as individuals come into the High School.
- 3) One area that the audit showed us was to increase our ability to monitor and track situations that may happen on our campuses. As a result, the School Board just approved a \$95,000 **video surveillance system** that will be installed over the Christmas break. This system will install 36 cameras on the exterior of both campuses and 28 cameras on the interior of our campuses. These cameras will act as a deterrent and a way to record instances on campuses.
- 4) Besides physical threats, our students/families face challenges in their cyber world. While the school's firewall filters many inappropriate information to our students' safety,

we are constantly updating and adding new information into our system. Protect Young Eyes is a leader in **internet safety**. Here is [link](#) to one of their article about keeping your home safe from pornography. They are a great resource in helping us navigate the digital world.

On top of these tangible items is the time we spend on safety drills, emergency management and first responder situations. Teachers, staff and students are trained to handle fire, tornado, and shelter in place scenarios as they go through drills throughout the course of the year.

In all of these situations we know that the Lord has us in the palm of his hands and it is in his care that we trust his plan for our lives. Matthew 6:26 **“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”**

- **Marc Verkaik, Head of School**