



# NORTHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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CAROLINE JOHNS  
SUPERINTENDENT

March 2, 2018

Dear Northgate Families,

I am writing with a couple of district updates. The first is in regards to school safety and security. While safety planning is an on-going process in the district, any new event provides information that is reviewed and considered by the safety committee. The tragic events that unfolded in Parkland, Florida have been reviewed and we continue to make updates and revisions to our practices. First of all, parents may have noticed an increase in police presence at the buildings during arrival and dismissal. We are truly appreciative of the relationship we have with our local police departments and are grateful for their continued support. A second area we are updating relates to student drills. We will be implementing new procedures that we believe will help our students feel more prepared to respond to any kind of crisis situation. Our drills will be more complex in nature while remaining age-appropriate. Finally, we ask that all parents reiterate to their children the importance of reporting to an adult anything they see or hear that causes them to feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

As a result of the events in Florida, there has been a nationwide increase in student activism. We are excited to see our students wanting to have their voices heard and be a part of the political process. In the coming weeks, administration is meeting with student leaders to discuss how we can support them in their efforts. We look forward to hearing their ideas and supporting them as they learn important lessons on how to be active citizens.

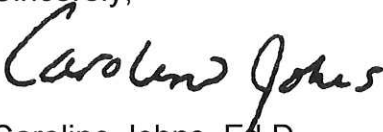
A second area I want to inform parents about is facilities planning. Over the past year, the Board has engaged HHSDR Architect/Engineering firm in a comprehensive study of our buildings. As a district, our buildings are an important asset, and we take seriously our responsibility of maintaining them in a fiscally responsible manner. During the next few months, the Board will be finalizing a long-term plan for all three buildings. While some of the updates will be readily apparent, other necessary updates will be made to the unseen mechanical systems that keep our buildings running. Updates will be posted on our website as the planning and work progresses.

But what about football? Due to findings of the facilities study, the board has a number of options to consider regarding our facilities and the district is doing its due diligence to collect additional information before making any costly investments. Therefore, this year's games will be played on Saturdays. We know this is disappointing, but we are working hard to make the best of the situation. Feedback from last year's season indicated that people would prefer to remain on our home field and play day games. We are working with local businesses to explore how we can partner to support our community during the upcoming season. Additionally, we are currently researching grant opportunities that could be used to potentially reduce the financial burden of installing new lights. Again, updates will be posted on the website.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the continual support of our families and have one request to make in order to help our students be successful. We continue to struggle with a large number of students missing instruction due to either arriving late to school or having an early dismissal. We realize that at times this can't be avoided, but at this point the number is excessive. We are committed to providing all of our students a great education, but it is nearly impossible for students to achieve academic success when they are routinely missing class. I would ask that families make sure their children are getting to school on-time and only request early dismissals when absolutely necessary. We do recognize that there are times when families face challenges in being able to do this so please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's principal or counselor if extra support is needed.

In closing, I want to say to all of our families that it is an honor and joy to serve as your Superintendent. I see great things happening in the district, areas we can continue to improve upon and a limitless future! Thank you for being a part of our Northgate family and entrusting to us the education of your children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Johns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Johns, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

CJ/ld