

Dear Patrons of the Atlanta C-3 School,

I am writing to you in regards to the issue of school violence. As the details of Parkland continue to come forward, many schools and communities are faced with the questions how do we move forward and do we need to be doing more to protect our students?

There have been many comments made over the recent days in regards to students saying things in our district and other districts in the area. I wanted to write and reassure each of you, as a district, we will communicate with you in situations where we find threats to be credible. In such cases law enforcement will be notified immediately and we will do our best to inform you of such situations. We have always followed up on any lead that has been given to us.

Unfortunately, over the years I have sent multiple letters out informing our community of dangers surrounding our district. Some may remember the threat of clowns, issues regarding communicable diseases, and the school shooting in Sandy Hook. As I looked back over my folder, I re-read a letter I sent to you after the shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. It is sad that many years later securing the safety of our children is still a serious issue.

Since that day, we have continued to increase security in and around the building. We continue to train staff and work on safety procedures. We work hard to establish trust and communication with our students. While no community is immune from such events, I know it is the closeness of the community and your resolve as parents that make our students great kids.

While sharing with the public all of the details of security would not be prudent, we do rely on your help and communication as part of our security procedure. As parents, you are always welcome to call or follow-up with any concern your child may have. Sometimes we are already aware of the situation, but most times we get new/more information when you follow-up.

I will always believe education is an important component of safety. As a district, we are going to be talking with the students in small groups over the next few days. The discussions will be age appropriate, so as to not scare our younger students, and cover how to handle information that they may be hearing.

While there has been no credible threat, we believe over the past few days there have been concerns from our kids. We would like keep the lines of communication open between them and our staff and let them know we are all in this together.

Sincerely,

William W. Perkins, Superintendent