



BAY STATE OF MIND

March 1, 2023

Dear Cypress Bay Families and Community,

I would like to thank all those parents, students, and staff members who were able to attend the School Advisory Council meeting yesterday. The main presentation was focused on Safety and Security. I greatly appreciate the feedback, questions, and comments that were generated during the meeting. I would like to summarize some of the main points that were addressed so that everyone can be informed on the daily operations and steps implemented to ensure the safety, security, and well-being of all students, staff, and visitors.

- **Mental Health Services offered at the school**

1. School Counselors are available to assist students with questions, and concerns that they may have or are experiencing. The School Counseling Department provides a newsletter on the school website under the Counseling tab offering tips and strategies.
2. All teachers and staff participate in mandatory annual training to be able to identify signs that may indicate that a student is in distress and/or is exhibiting any changes in behavior so that the appropriate resources can be made available.
3. School Social Workers are available to provide support and if needed, make referrals to community agencies.
4. School Social Workers are conducting classroom visits to Study Halls to check in with students and remind them how to access their services.
5. The Family Counselor is available based on referrals from our Counseling Department and School Social Workers.
6. Events focusing on Mental Health occur year-round such as Bay Day and Wave of Wellness which took place during the first semester as well as the Wellness Fair held for Faculty and Staff. Upcoming scheduled event: Mindful-ish on March 9th at 6:00 p.m. in Room 223. (Parenting relationship tips and mindful activities.)
7. First Call for Help (211 Broward) is available as a community resource for all residents of Broward County to assist in obtaining and locating resources. (Dial 211 for assistance).
8. The National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (Dial 988) is available 24 hours 7 days a week to connect directly to a crisis counselor. All students have access to this information on the back of their *initially* issued school ID.

- **School Communication**
 1. All major incidents are communicated via Parentlink (i.e. email, voice messages, text messages).
 2. When necessary, video communication will be provided to the school community.
 3. Additional efforts based on feedback will be made to share as much information as possible regarding events that may merit parent knowledge in order to dispel misinformation.
 4. General communication regarding events, activities, and school information is also communicated via social media, the school website, Canvas global announcements, the school marquee, and Parentlink.

- **Procedures for Orienting Substitutes on Response Protocols**
 1. All substitutes are provided with the Standard Response Protocol informational documents, and these are reviewed upon every substitute assignment.
 2. Substitutes are additionally provided with the protocols in each classroom they are assigned, including classroom-specific protocols.

Our entire security team, comprised of Administrators, Behavior Specialists, Broward Sheriff's School Resource Deputies, Armed Safe School Officers, Campus Security Manager, Security Specialists, and Campus Monitors, are dedicated and committed to ensuring the daily safety and security of all students, staff, and visitors. We are working closely with the District Safety Security and Emergency Department in addressing staffing, hiring, training, and procedural process improvements to our campus.

We continue to strive to collaborate with all stakeholders including the Broward Sheriff's Office, the City of Weston, and the Florida Department of Education Office of Safe Schools. We encourage our parents to continue to join us in this partnership through active participation in our Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), School Advisory Council (SAC), and School Advisory Forum (SAF). Parents can join PTSA via this link:
<https://cypressbayptsa.memberhub.com>

Sincerely,

Principal Fried