

## **Administrative Office**

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Leading the Pack

10/16/23

Dear Reed City Area Public Schools Families,

October 15 through 21 marks Safe Schools Week across our country. It's a good time to share reminders about our school safety policies and initiatives. Safety begins the moment our students step onto our buses or out of cars during drop off times. It's also important that we recognize our commitment to safety extends to after-school activities, athletic events, and field trips.

I know that I speak for the entire Reed City Schools family when I say that safety is something we think about on a daily basis. We recognize it begins with the school climate. Do students and staff members feel safe when they are in our facilities? Does the school culture reflect an atmosphere of nurturing and care? Are there trusted adults available to listen to our students? I believe we are able to answer "yes" to these questions.

Of course, safety is also reflected in our policies and procedures, such as limiting access to our schools to those who have a stated purpose for being there. We've also continued to invest in the infrastructure, allowing us to secure our facilities from those who may be intent on doing harm. Every member of our community has a role in the safety of our schools. While we partner closely with local law enforcement, every student, staff, parent, and community member should remain vigilant to potential threats and when we "See Something, Say Something."

Each year we conduct the necessary school safety drills, update our emergency operations procedures, and work to stay abreast of school safety best practices. As we highlight school safety week, I also wanted to encourage our families to access available resources in the event of an emergency during non-school hours. I'm including a link to <a href="MIREADY">MIREADY</a> which provides a number of resources for creating your own emergency response plan for your family.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Sweet, Superintendent