

Northwest

High School

Community Meeting
on Safety and Security
September 17, 2024



Outcomes

- Welcome Guests to our Meeting
- Meeting Norms
- NWHS Safety and Security Actions
- Summary of September 6th Incident
- Previously Gathered Questions
- How can you get involved?
- Questions



Meeting Panelists

Mr. Marcus Jones, Chief of Security and Compliance
Office of Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management

Mr. Christopher Cram, Director
Department of Communications

Captain Marc Erme, Director, Criminal Investigations Division
Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)

Lt. Carlo Corvoisier, 5th District, Deputy Commander
Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)

Lt. Jeff Innocenti, Deputy Director, Community Engagement Division
Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)

Recognized Guests

Mr. Scott Smith, NWHS Principal

Mr. Joseph Fanning, NWHS Principal Intern

Dr. Tamitha E. Campbell, Area 3 Associate Superintendent
Office of School Support and Improvement

Mr. David Chia, Director

Office of School Support and Improvement

Ms. Michelle Ezeofor-Andrews, Director

Office of Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management

Ms. Donna Sutton, Cluster Security Coordinator

Office of Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management

Ms. Kim Summers, NWHS PTSA President

Mr. Paul Rivers, NWHS Booster Club President

Community Meeting Norms

- Respectful Communication: Ensure all participants express their views with courtesy.
- Assume best intentions from all participants.
- Active Listening: Allow others to speak without interruption and listen attentively.
- Focus on ideas not personal attacks.
- Stick to our allocated time limit for our meeting.

Security Roles and Responsibilities at NWHS

- 7 security team members each have a post during structured class time and transition/lunch time.
 - ID checks, bathroom sweeps, ushering students to class, monitoring doors
 - Team members communicate their checks each period
 - Security team members reposition based on needs
 - Security team members check cameras and investigate student situations
- Security team leader regularly meets with principal.
- Security team members meet as a team weekly to review assignments and share/receive updates.
- Security team and Administration meet bi-weekly.
- Security team members receive ongoing training for their role.
- NWHS security team also works closely with our Security Cluster Coordinator and Supervisor from central office security and keeps them updated to request additional support when needed.

Security Actions at NWHS this Year

- Proactive collaboration with CEO Desouza and the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD).
- Student ID checks each morning - new for all high schools this year. **Beginning here Friday, September 20.**
- Shelter and Lockdown Drills are scheduled for early this fall.
- Bathroom doors propped open.

Additional Advocacy:

- Metal/Weapons Detection
- More cameras
- Cameras that are activated at exterior doorways
- Alarmed doors

September 6, 2024 Sequence of Events

Reviewed by members of the
MCPD

Communication

- Communication on this incident needed to be coordinated with MCPD and MCPS given that it was a police matter.
- Letter sent to staff, parents, and students the evening after MCPD's press release.
- Staff meeting the next morning.
- Meeting with student leadership in ILT.
- Parent meeting scheduled for this evening, Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

Gathered Questions: Timing/Safety

- Why wasn't the student searched earlier in the day instead of "observed" all day?
- Why was the student allowed to attend all classes that day with such serious charges alleged?
- Why wasn't the student arrested before the school day ended?

Gathered Questions: Timing/Safety

- It stands to reason that the student had a weapon on them during the school day, since it was stated that the weapon was thrown and recovered just off school grounds. Why was the student allowed to be in classes all day?
- Why was it determined that a shelter/lockdown was not needed to have an arrest made before the end of the day?
- Is there a concern that the March incident is gang-related? And if so, is there further concern about subsequent incidents stemming from this arrest?

Gathered Questions: Communication

- If the incident happened in March 2024 and there was a warrant out for his arrest, why wasn't the student arrested long before September 6, 2024?
- Why wasn't a community message sent on the day of the incident?
- Why weren't staff notified on the day of the incident?

How You Can Help

- Please reinforce school messages regarding safety and security.
- Reinforce the “see something say something” message.
- Stay informed about Safety and Security Procedures.
- Reinforce with your child the importance of arriving to school and class on time and why school rules such as IDs, passes, etc. exist.
- Check your child’s attendance.
- Share the importance of a shared responsibility of security with your child.
- Pay attention to your child’s social media and belongings.
- Ensure that your contact information is updated and that you are receiving updates from the school via email. You can check this on ParentVUE or if you need help, call the main office so we can verify your contact information.

How can students and parents get involved?

- Join PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) to advocate for policies and resources regarding school safety and security. NWHS PTSA works with MCCPTA (Montgomery County Council of PTAs) to champion issues with MCPS and the Board of Education.
- Engage in student leadership (SGA) to advocate for student safety at NWHS.
- Learn about the the Student Member of the Board Resolution on Safety and Security.

Q&A



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JAGUARS