

# ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
MR. CRAIG BENES, SUPERINTENDENT  
200 N. MAPLE ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1722  
(630) 773-1232 Fax (630) 773-1342

Dear Itasca District 10 Community and Staff Members,

Our country is facing an incredible challenge to ensure the safety of our children. Many of you may be aware of a social media threat made against Lake Park High School last week. Lake Park High School decided to cancel classes due to multiple disruptions in the day stemming from a perceived threat on social media. Lake Park High School and Roselle Police Department worked together to rule out the seriousness of this threat. This comes right after the tragedy in Florida at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. This is yet another tragedy that has occurred all too often over the last few years in our nation's schools. Last week the possible threat of this at Lake Park High School felt all too close to home for all of us. We, as a country, are in a heightened state of concern and fear. Social media outlets and cell phones in every hand can be of vital importance in communicating with loved ones and first responders in an emergency, but it can also contribute to incomplete or incorrect information spreading like wildfire in seconds. Student Safety and Citizenship is a core goal of Itasca District 10. It is prudent to reflect on how, as a district, we are working to ensure student safety. Please note the following actions:

- All Itasca District 10 staff participate in annual district-wide and school-based safety drills with the Itasca Police Department. These drills are lengthy and train our educators how to work with the police to protect our students against a violent threat.
- The police are welcome at all times in our schools. I believe law enforcement and fire safety officers should visit the schools even when there is not a problem. We are partners in safe learning and I want our children to see that they are to be trusted. Please know that the police are and have been incredible partners in reaffirming student safety.
- We have made several additions to our camera systems. For the first time this year we have both internal and external camera systems at all schools. These systems interface directly with the police department in the event of a critical emergency.
- We are currently upgrading the quality and amount of external cameras at Peacock and Franzen.
- For the first time we will be adding external audio and camera intercom systems for visitor entry and building access at all buildings.
- Itasca Police Director O'Connor and his staff will join me and the principals to visit every classroom over the next few months at every school to review safety procedures with our students. This will be done in a developmentally appropriate manner to support our children as we work to ensure their safety.



RAYMOND BENSON PRIMARY  
DR. DAWN TURNER, PRINCIPAL  
301 E. WASHINGTON ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-2159  
(630) 773-0554  
Fax (630) 285-7474

ELMER H. FRANZEN INTERMEDIATE  
MR. JASON TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL  
730 N. CATALPA ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1465  
(630) 773-0100  
Fax (630) 285-7468

F.E. PEACOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MRS. HEIDI WEEKS, PRINCIPAL  
301 E. NORTH ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1620  
(630) 773-0335  
Fax (630) 285-7460

# ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
MR. CRAIG BENES, SUPERINTENDENT  
200 N. MAPLE ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1722  
(630) 773-1232 Fax (630) 773-1342

- Over the next few months we will be engaging the services of an architecture firm to conduct a first ever comprehensive safety evaluation of all of our schools. The new architecture firm, along with safety consultants, will evaluate all safety measures for our schools. Director O'Connor has pledged that he and his staff will fully participate in the safety evaluation.
- Director O'Connor will join me at the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. to discuss our safety procedures with the Board of Education.
- In September 2018, Director O'Connor, Board President Lundeen and myself, plan to lead a new Town Hall School Meeting for our parents where we discuss safety procedures for our students.
- We will continue to have a significant counseling and social work presence to address the social and emotional health of our students.
- We will continue to offer various social emotional supports including Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS), Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship and Character Counts. Our commitment to evaluate and update these programs is ongoing.
- The most recent 5Essentials student survey results indicate that students feel very safe in our buildings. Peacock's rating is at an all-time high in relation to the state and other districts regarding students feeling safe.

We are committed to maintaining a high degree of awareness and vigilance to ensure that we are aware of and respond to any type of security threat now or in the future. We have policies, procedures and training to respond to events like what happened in Florida last week. This is an ongoing process and commitment and one that remains a top priority. I have the utmost confidence in our staff and community and our collective ability to keep our kids as safe as possible. To demonstrate this shared commitment, District and Community leaders have signed below. It's a highly stressful time, one best faced with action that 100% benefits our #1 resource – our students. If you have additional concerns or questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 630-773-1232.



RAYMOND BENSON PRIMARY  
DR. DAWN TURNER, PRINCIPAL  
301 E. WASHINGTON ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-2159  
(630) 773-0554  
Fax (630) 285-7474

ELMER H. FRANZEN INTERMEDIATE  
MR. JASON TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL  
730 N. CATALPA ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1465  
(630) 773-0100  
Fax (630) 285-7468

F.E. PEACOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MRS. HEIDI WEEKS, PRINCIPAL  
301 E. NORTH ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1620  
(630) 773-0335  
Fax (630) 285-7460

# ITASCA SCHOOL DISTRICT 10

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
MR. CRAIG BENES, SUPERINTENDENT  
200 N. MAPLE ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1722  
(630) 773-1232 Fax (630) 773-1342

As leaders we will work together to keep our students safe.



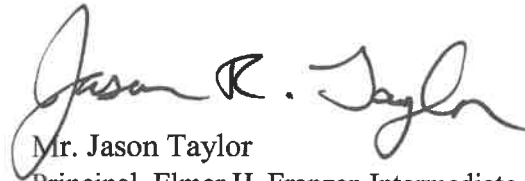
Mr. Craig Benes  
Superintendent, Itasca School District 10



Mrs. Heidi Weeks  
Principal, F.E. Peacock Middle School



Director Robert O'Connor  
Director, Itasca Police Department



Mr. Jason Taylor  
Principal, Elmer H. Franzen Intermediate School



Mr. Marty Lundeen  
President, Itasca Board of Education



Dr. Dawn Turner  
Principal, Raymond Benson Primary School



Mrs. Kelly Adreani  
Vice President, Itasca Board of Education



Mrs. Dee Castello  
President, Itasca Support Staff Union



Ms. Jenni Schalla  
President, Education Association of Itasca



RAYMOND BENSON PRIMARY  
DR. DAWN TURNER, PRINCIPAL  
301 E. WASHINGTON ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-2159  
(630) 773-0554  
Fax (630) 285-7474

ELMER H. FRANZEN INTERMEDIATE  
MR. JASON TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL  
730 N. CATALPA ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1465  
(630) 773-0100  
Fax (630) 285-7468

F.E. PEACOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MRS. HEIDI WEEKS, PRINCIPAL  
301 E. NORTH ST.  
ITASCA, IL 60143-1620  
(630) 773-0335  
Fax (630) 285-7460