



September 18, 2015

Dear Parents,

In the past week, we have seen some stressful and troubling events happen in our community. As we come to the end of the week, I would like to share some information and thoughts about what has happened. In these times of around the clock media, we sometimes don't receive the information that we feel we need in the time or manner that we want it. That being said our primary mission here at WGSD is to provide for the safety of your children.

On Monday evening, we had a safety issue occur at one of our schools. There was a young man trespassing on the roof at Woodfield. District personnel confronted the trespasser at Woodfield Elementary and it was district personnel who detained the trespasser until the police arrived.

Sheriff's deputies did thorough searches and information checks before declaring the school grounds safe. Please remember, several of these deputies have children who attend Woodfield. Knowing that the schools were safe, we made sure you understood that you had the option to keep your children home because we couldn't give you all the information immediately. I know that this was frustrating and your frustration is totally understandable. I was frustrated we could not immediately communicate all the details we knew. It is understandable that many of you would turn to social media for information when little is available. I would ask that in the future, please feel free to contact me personally. In a crisis situation, I may not be able to contact you immediately. But if you have information to share or concerns to voice, I will contact you. Your building principals will also be available.

At this point, I would like to offer some information that may not have been shared about the preparations this district has been making. Beginning over 24 months ago, WGSD has formed a safety committee that has been doing a systematic review of procedures and audits of building security measures. Staff has been training both in and out of district and with representatives of the Racine County Sheriff's Department. We meet regularly at the district level and at the building level. We are constantly reviewing our procedures to be better prepared for situations as they arise.

Please rest assured we will continue to work to keep your children safe and provide the strongest educational programming possible. We will be sharing with you over the coming months some of the comprehensive safety training we will be providing for our staff and upper level students.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. Have a great weekend and give your child an extra hug tonight.

Sincerely,

Ed Brzinski, Superintendent, Waterford Graded School District