



## The Schools of McKeel Academy

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303 E. Peachtree Street • Lakeland, Florida 33801-4853  
www.mckeelschools.com

February 27, 2018

Dear McKeel Schools Families:

In light of the recent tragedy in South Florida, we wanted to assure our families that our top priority is the safety of all McKeel students and staff. Many of you have reached out to our school system regarding the safety protocols we have in place in our schools. We have reviewed our security measures and ways to enhance the safety of all of our schools. Some of those changes you have been made aware of or may have noticed; other changes will not be made public for the safety of students and staff. Schools are a place where students deserve to learn free from fear and teachers are allowed to teach with the same freedom. We respectfully ask for your patience as we implement these changes knowing that there will be some level of inconvenience for all parties.

The responsibility of school safety belongs to all of us and it is important to recognize that everyone plays a critical role in school safety. Students, staff and the community are encouraged to be ever vigilant and observant. We are reiterating to our staff and students the importance of reporting all threats of violence to school administration or law enforcement. Quite simply, if you hear or see something, say something!

We also are encouraging parents and guardians to carefully monitor students' online activities and employ these strategies:

- Know what websites and social media sites your child is using and look at what they are posting and who they are following;
- Stress that making a threat is never to be taken lightly and that there are severe consequences;
- Watch for changes in your child's behavior and seek help if your child needs support with dealing with anxiety or feeling safe; and
- Keep an open line of communication with your children and encourage them to tell you or another trusted adult if they become aware of a threat or rumor of violence.

We know we can all agree that violence is never a solution to any problem; however, we must prepare in every way for how it could affect our lives. Working together at home and school, we can and will make a difference for our children. McKeel has no greater responsibility than to educate our children in a safe environment where they can learn and grow.

Thank you in advance for partnering with us in keeping our children and schools safe.

Sincerely,

Alan Black  
Director  
The Schools of McKeel Academy

Stephanie L. Campbell  
Board Chair  
The Schools of McKeel Academy