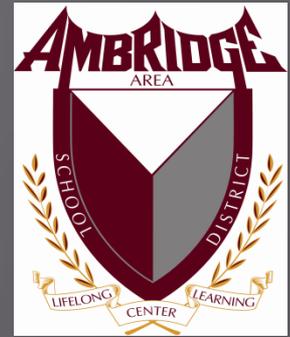


SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERVIEW

AMBRIDGE
AREA

School Safety and Security Overview



The safety and security of students and staff is a top priority in the Ambridge Area School District.

The District frequently reviews security practices and crisis response protocols, adjusting when deemed necessary.

This document outlines the policies and procedures in place as part of the AASD security plan.

School Safety and Security Overview

Building Procedures:

- ❑ All doors are in the process of being numbered for easy identification by emergency personnel during a crisis situation.
- ❑ All cameras also are in the process of being numbered so District officials and law enforcement personnel are able to refer to a specific camera during an emergency situation.
- ❑ Local law enforcement have access to live video feeds via the District's camera system.
- ❑ Staff have access to a direct line to the police.
- ❑ District Administration regularly meets with all five police chiefs from the boroughs and municipalities covered by AASD to review safety and security protocol, making adjustments as needed.

School Safety and Security Overview

Building Procedures (Cont'd):

- ▣ The High School and Junior High School will be locked down in the evenings and weekends. Coaches and event sponsors will be responsible for admitting students to the buildings for scheduled practices, etc.
- ▣ All hallways and stairwells will be locked down with “drop-down” bars for areas not in use for after school or evening events.
- ▣ Metal detectors are in use at the High School.

School Safety and Security Overview

ALICE Training for Staff and Students:

ALICE is an active-shooter training program that is used in the Ambridge Area School District. All teachers have received the training; students in grades 4-12 also have received training, with students in K-3 receiving a modified version of the training in an age-appropriate manner.

A - Alert

L - Lockdown

I - Inform

C - Counter

E - Evacuate

School Safety and Security Overview

School Resource Officers:

- ▣ The Ambridge Area School District employs two School Resource Officers (SROs). One officer is stationed full time at the Junior High School and a second officer is stationed full time at the Senior High School.

Visitor Procedures:

- ▣ Visitors to all District buildings are required to provide a state-issued identification, which is then scanned through the [RAPTOR](#) Visitor Management system.

School Safety and Security Overview

Support Services for Students

The Ambridge Area School District provides a number of support services for students, both in-house and through outside agencies. Among the services provided include:

- ❑ Student Assistance Program (SAP) - this program helps students who are experiencing behavior and/or academic difficulties which pose a barrier to learning and success in school. A team of school employees who have received specialized training from the Commonwealth of PA make up the SAP team for each building.
- ❑ Caring staff members have access to a number of supports that can be used to assist children in need, including Child Study and Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) at the elementary level.

School Safety and Security Overview

Support Services for Students (Cont'd)

- ▣ Positive Steps School-Based Therapy Services, provided through Western Pennsylvania Psychiatric Care.
- ▣ School counselors
- ▣ Three school social workers
- ▣ Two school psychologists
- ▣ [Highmark Caring Place](#)
- ▣ [Beaver County Behavioral Health](#)

School Safety and Security Overview

Support Services for Students (Cont'd)

- ▣ [STAR Center](#) of Pittsburgh
- ▣ [Samaritan Counseling](#)
- ▣ [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)
- ▣ [AGH Center for Traumatic Stress](#)

*Additional resources are available from the school guidance counselors.

School Safety and Security Overview

Communication:

When there is a true emergency in the District, parents and guardians will receive a text, phone call, email or combination of the three with instructions on how the District is handling the situation, as well as any information on how to reconnect with their children should an evacuation of a building(s) occur. Follow-up communication will occur, as needed.

For non-emergency situations, parents and guardians will receive an email notification and/or a letter.

School Safety and Security Overview

The Ambridge Area School District cares about the safety and security of its students, as well as providing mental health and wellness and other supports, as needed, to ensure our students are happy and healthy in the school environment.

Questions or concerns about safety and security issues, or mental wellness supports, can be directed to any building principal:

- ▣ Ms. Janice Zupsic, High School Principal
724-266-2833, Ext. 2287
- ▣ Mr. John Booher, Acting Principal, Junior High
724-266-2833, Ext. 3245
- ▣ Mrs. Aphrodite Galitsis, Economy Elementary Principal
724-266-2833, Ext. 6245
- ▣ Mrs. Jo Ann Hoover, Highland Elementary Principal
724-266-2833, Ext. 7202
- ▣ Mr. Thomas McKelvey, State Street Elementary Principal
724-266-2833, Ext. 4213