

December 10, 2021

It has been a challenging week for our schools as we have been made keenly aware of the vulnerabilities that exist in modern education. We are still working to mitigate the impact of the graffiti situation (words scratched into the paint on bathroom stalls) we discussed throughout the week. We have done our best not to let this callous disregard for the well-being of the entire school population interfere with instruction in our classrooms. Student, parent, and staff concerns are foremost in my thoughts, and I appreciate everyone who has reached out to me with questions, suggestions, and other information.

We are taking specific steps within our buildings, such as locking classroom doors, requiring sign-in and sign-out sheets for students using restrooms during class, periodically checking bathrooms throughout the day, and monitoring the hallways and multi-purpose room during passing periods and lunch. In addition, we expect law enforcement to be a more frequent guest on campus in the future. Sheriff's Deputy Walker Vandenhazel and the county's Juvenile officer stopped by the school to meet with me on Friday afternoon. The sheriff's department will actively participate in safety committee issues and our upcoming strategic planning process.

I want to take a moment to commend our students and staff for staying focused on learning throughout the week. These are already challenging times without adding anything extra to our ordinary days. Of course, with only one week of school before the winter break, I encourage everyone to stay focused and safe. Those of you who have concerns about school safety, instruction, facilities management, resource management, or other issues are invited to contact me at emurray@lopezislandschool.org so you can be an active participant in our upcoming strategic planning process. We need your input and support to create the safest and best possible learning environments for Lopez and Decatur Islands children.

Thank you!

Ed Murray

Superintendent

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