

**James F. Lane, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent



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Chesterfield County Public Schools  
Innovative. Engaging. Relevant.

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Dear parents and guardians,

As a parent of a first-grade student enrolled in Chesterfield County Public Schools, the safety and security of our students and staff members is constantly on my mind. Thanks to those who I have met during my first two months as Superintendent, I will leave for work next week comfortable with the understanding that my son will be in great hands.

Tens of thousands of other parents just like me entrust their children to our school division every day and expect that we will keep them safe. Chesterfield County Public Schools' ability to meet this expectation is part of why our community continues to be recognized as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.

Our schools are safe locations for students and staff members, and we will continue to take every reasonable step to maintain their safety.

Chesterfield County Public Schools has taken a number of steps to better secure our buildings and implemented strategies designed to positively affect student behavior:

- Exceeded state mandates for emergency drills by adding earthquake and tornado drills, along with a first-responder team that conducts unannounced intruder drills; conducted approximately 1,500 safety drills during the 2015-16 school year
- Coordinated a team of school division leaders, public safety partners, mental health providers, school-based personnel and parents to form an interagency safety committee; performed safety and security checks of each school building
- Designated school safety teams to promote emergency preparedness and lead critical incident response efforts; increased school division security office staffing
- Worked with our partners in the police department to assign school resource officers to each secondary school and Child Safety Officers to each elementary school; assigned school security officers to each high school and technical center
- Installed additional electronic locking systems at all elementary and middle schools; initiated a multiyear project to upgrade camera surveillance at secondary schools
- Incorporated the Promote Respect anti-bullying campaign into our positive behavioral intervention and supports program
- Adopted the Watch D.O.G.S. program at majority of elementary schools, bringing positive male role models into schools.

We know that students can't achieve their best unless they feel comfortable. It is our intention to provide students with a safe haven for the 6.5 hours each day they are with us. This work starts with teachers and staff members, who have been asked to create positive, meaningful relationships with every student.

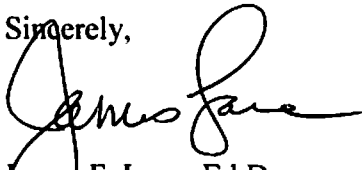
These efforts complement ongoing, year-round work to support students and staff members. Each Chesterfield County school has a critical incident and emergency management plan, which includes prevention, mitigation, response and recovery actions. Each school also has a critical incident team that manages school response to issues affecting students and staff members, as well as a threat assessment team that uses a systematic process to evaluate potential disturbances and develop appropriate responses.

Our school division is as equipped as ever to keep your child safe. We continue to work with schools and emergency first-responders to take reasonable steps to provide a safe, supportive and nurturing learning environment for students and staff members. Schools are among the safest places for children and young people.

Please join our efforts to sustain learning environments that are free from distraction and disruption. If you see something, say something. If you know something, make sure someone at a school knows it, too.

We are partners in our effort to protect our children. In turn in the future, they will be protecting us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

James F. Lane, Ed.D.  
Superintendent