



# CHS Safety & Security Update

November 30, 2023



# Update Topics

- Actions Completed
- Actions In Progress
- Additional Information
- Relationships: a key security 'solution'
- How Families & Community Can Make a Difference



# Post Pandemic Trends in Education



In a School Safety Trends Report, which encompassed three separate survey periods (the Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Fall 2021) it was observed that:

- Student behavior incidents increased 250%
- Medical incidents increased 130%
- Safety incidents per school increased 150%
- Number of staff requesting help increased 100%
- Staff called for help 22% more often

*“School violence has risen to levels that we haven’t seen quite frankly.”*

-Mo Canady, Executive Director of the National Association of School Resource Officers.

# Balancing Supports & Accountability



# Actions Completed This School Year-to-Date

## Visitor vestibule improvements

- Expanded door controls
- Improved staffing & protocols

## In School Behavior Intervention (ISBI - in school suspension)

- New set-up and procedures

## Staff and volunteers increase monitoring of halls and perimeter doors

## Knight School expansion of alternative program

- Initial student orientation held November 27th

*We continue to discipline students according to the Students' Rights and Responsibilities (following state guidelines). A number of students continue to serve suspensions or face disciplinary hearings.*



# Actions In Progress



Enhanced door monitoring technology

Additional radios and communication protocol improvements

Filling vacancies:

- Additional Care & Safety Assistant/School Safety Officer (CSA / SSO) staff
- Eliminate teacher vacancies

Substitute recruitment and supports

Restroom remodeling

- Design concepts complete
- Bid package preparation in progress for summer 2024 phase 1 construction

Cell phone expectations & procedures

Ongoing student and staff feedback

Weapons detection conversation

Police supports conversation

# Additional Information - Cell Phones

- Cell phones have exacerbated discipline and safety issues
- Off & Away for the Day push has yielded some improvements in classrooms
- Hallways and common areas still challenging
- Yondr pouch information sessions held with CHS staff on Wednesday, October 18th



# Student Rights & Responsibilities (Discipline)

<https://charlottesvilleschools.org/conduct>

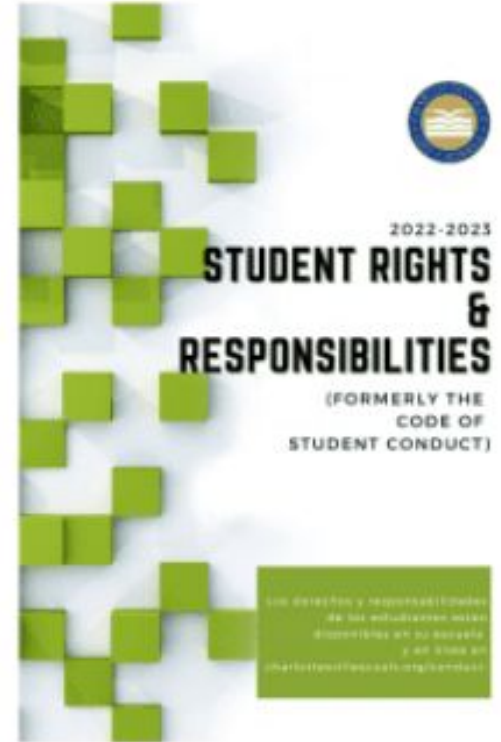
The Student Rights and Responsibilities document outlines our expectation for school culture. It embeds the state's discipline framework and codes.

We have been following the SR&R closely and will continue to do so.

Our approach is a combination of discipline and learning what is stopping the student from success so that we can put the proper supports in place.

As students repeat or escalate behaviors, the disciplinary actions increase.

Student success meetings with parents and the students are an important part of moving forward.





# Additional Information - Restroom Remodels

- Gender neutral
- Improved individual privacy
- Improved area supervision
  - Supports better monitoring for unsafe behaviors

Consistent with new Middle School restroom design.

Phase 1 construction planned for summer 2024.

- B Commons restrooms
- One 2nd floor restroom area



# Additional Information - Weapons Detection

Considering the Ceia OpenGate System:

- Lightweight and portable
- Can be utilized indoors and outdoors
- Unlike typical metal detector gates, OpenGate detects metal threats without mechanical or electrical connection between the two pillars
- Reporting software measures false alarms, throughput, and sensitivity

Currently utilized by Louisa County, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and UVA



# Additional Information - Police Supports

CCS works closely with CPD every week to address safety concerns and all Code of Virginia requirements.

## Challenges:

- Loss of radio communications with CPD
- Threat assessment volume
- School incident volume and variety
- Community incident impacts

CCS and CPD continue to discuss the possibility of revisiting our MOU. We also are exploring models from other communities for SROs or “community youth officers.” Any possible MOU would include:

- Joint selection process for possible candidates
- Purposeful assignments and routines to mitigate general surveillance
- Clear protocols and operating procedures



# A Key Security 'Solution': Relationships

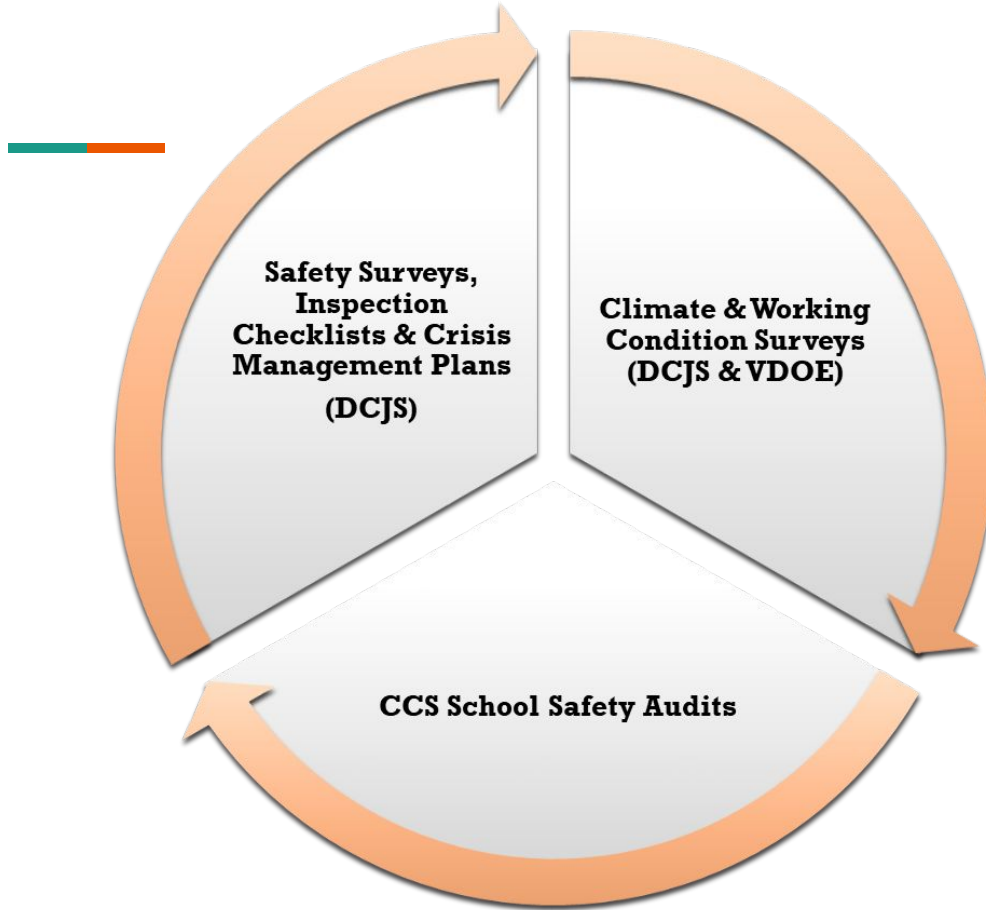
## Promoting a Climate of Care and Safety in CHS

- Care & Safety Assistants (CSAs) - certified School Safety Officers (SSOs)
- Climate Surveys
- Social & Emotional Supports for Students & Staff
- Intentional Community-Building
- Promoting "If you see something, say something."
- Threat Assessments



**"Many security experts and educators point to a solution that is decidedly low-tech: the relationships..."**

**- *Washington Post*, May 28, 2022**



# School Safety & Security: A CONTINUOUS PROCESS

# How Families & Community Can Help:

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- Have even occasional flexibility in your daytime schedule?
  - [charlottesvilleschools.org/volunteer](https://charlottesvilleschools.org/volunteer) (includes hall monitoring)
  - [charlottesvilleschools.org/substitute](https://charlottesvilleschools.org/substitute) to sub at CHS
- Strengthen CHS community support:
  - Join PTO and other booster orgs
  - Participate in Family Engagement supplies drives
- Change happens at the speed of relationships: What can you do to get to know more of your Cville neighbors?



**Public schools reflect community.**

**Thank you for supporting our CHS  
Black Knights community -**

**We are Charlottesville!**

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# Norms for Small Groups

- Let's participate AND listen so that we have equity of voice and perspective. “I” statements are helpful
- Let's agree that it's OK to disagree. We need to have honest conversation.
- If we are going to speak truths freely, we need to establish a sense of protected space and trust. This may be messy and uncomfortable work. This is complex.
- Embrace discomfort and extend grace to one another.
- Metaphorically, this needs to be a round table where we're all on the same side and prioritizing the children of our community.
- Let's assume good intention and positivity from one another, with permission to still communicate accordingly.
- If we hear something that sounds “off,” confusing, or uninformed, let's clarify to move forward together.