



February 21, 2018

Dear Tuscaloosa City Schools Parents:

The parents, students, educators, and community of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School remain in our thoughts. We mourn with these families and will continue to keep them in our thoughts as they grieve the losses that their community and our country have experienced.

The Tuscaloosa City Schools and the Tuscaloosa Police Department remain committed to the safety of the children in our community. We will use this most unfortunate tragedy to reflect and review our own practices to become even stronger in prevention and planning for response.

A few years ago, the Tuscaloosa City Schools did an assessment of our facilities to strengthen the safety features of every school. As part of that review, the Tuscaloosa City Schools and Tuscaloosa Police Department reviewed our system safety to make changes to improve our process, procedures, and communication. As a result of this review, we changed safety features in our schools, changed policies, and changed practices. This review strengthened an already strong partnership committed to the safety of our students.

However, our commitment to a strong safety culture can never be complete. We will continue to have ongoing meetings and joint training sessions committed to school safety. We will continue the presence of Student Resource Officers in our secondary schools. We will continue to have officers monitor and have a presence in our elementary schools. We will continue our safety review of all schools to do all that we can to prevent such tragedy in our schools. We will also continue to focus on our collective response should a tragedy like this occur in our community.

We need your ongoing support and assistance. The last few days we have received input from community members regarding additional safety safeguards. Please keep your input coming as it helps us reflect on our practices. If you have input, please contact your child's school or you can do so online through the *Let's Talk* feature on our system website.

Further, the Tuscaloosa City Schools remains committed to addressing the needs of the whole child through our social services, counseling services, mental health services, and overall support for each specific student we serve.

Communication is one of our strongest strategies in prevention. However you determine it best to discuss this with your child at home, please call on your child's school or the school system if we can be of any assistance. We have committed counselors, teachers, and social workers who can support you as needed. Further, we ask that you and/or your child report anything that may cause harm to him/her or others. This can be reported to any school official or any police officer. Our students can report bullying to any school official and even online at www.tuscaloosacityschools.com/halt. Strong communication among schools, families, police, and students is the greatest prevention we can put in place.

The safety of your child is our priority, and we thank you for your support in keeping our children and community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Daria".

Mike Daria, Ed.D.
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Anderson".

Chief Steve Anderson
Tuscaloosa Police Department