

April 6, 2018

Dear Yinghua Families,

In light of recent events, school safety has been a topic that, more than ever, is on everyone's mind. Here at YA, safety is always our top priority. As we often say, "Safety First!" As a school, we are required to review our safety procedures annually.

However, as part of our ongoing commitment to safety and security, we continually review our practices and procedures throughout the school year. In fact, last Friday during our Professional Development Day we invested significant time in dialogue with teachers and our Crisis Management Team regarding basic daily procedures such as attendance and crisis management drills.

As a robust and flourishing school, dismissal and after school hours are a potentially vulnerable time of the day, relative to safety. During our discussions, dismissal time, especially because of our extended window between 3:30-4:00 before Aftercare fully takes over the supervision of the children, surfaced as a busy, potentially more chaotic time of day with many moving parts. Door 2 is unlocked for the purpose of student pick-up and a staff person enters dismissal numbers. The current policy is that parents are asked to wait in the mural hallway for their children after their number has been entered and not enter the rest of the school.

In addition to this policy, we have now implemented additional layers to maximize safety and security during this busy time of day. For adults who need to gain access to the school beyond the mural/public restroom hallway...

- Any/all adults who may be coaching, teaching an enrichment class, volunteering with activities such as Battle of the Books and Debate, teaching music conservatory lessons, and entering the building during this time of day for any such purpose will now need to sign in at the Aftercare Office and receive an ID badge.
- Any/all adults who are volunteering, helping at an event, meeting with a teacher, etc. will now need to sign in at the Main Office to get a visitor's badge.
- After 4:30, when aftercare is fully managing the supervision of students and the Main Office is closed, any/all adults will need to sign in at the Aftercare Office and receive a visitor's badge.

In the days ahead, we may be implementing additional procedures and policies to further tighten up security and safety in and around the school. We will do our best to inform our families of policy changes and additions in as timely a manner as possible as these changes go into effect. And, as always, please feel free to contact Mrs. Berg or Mr. Brewer if you ever have questions or concerns about school safety.

In closing, I will leave you with an additional traffic safety reminder. The City of Minneapolis recently contacted us to express concerns about the number of parents who are parking on the west side of Fillmore and then sending their children across the busy street in the mornings. We agree with the City that this is very unsafe. If you drive your children to school and drop them off at the curb, please only park on the east side of Fillmore so your children can safely exit your vehicle onto the city sidewalk before walking into school.

Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and cooperation in helping us to keep our most precious possessions – the children – safe. Safety First!

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brewer
Dean of Students