



# Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind

*Do More. Be More. Achieve More.*

August 5, 2019

Dear Parents and Legal Guardians,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year—we hope that you had a great summer and we look forward to seeing you soon!

FSDB is dedicated to providing a safe and secure learning, living, and working environment for students and staff members alike. As we prepare for another exciting school year, we would like to review existing safety practices as well as let you know what additional features we are putting into place.

- **School Safety Personnel**—We hired a School Safety Specialist who has been working with campus departments to meet statutory requirements and incorporate best practices for safe schools.
- **Emergency Management Team**—We continue to build on a nationally recognized framework for planning and responding to critical incidents of all types, including safety preparedness drills. We are also working in partnership with local and state public safety agencies.
- **School Resource Officers**—We are fortunate in that we already have 10 sworn campus police officers who also function as school resource officers.
- **Physical Upgrades**—We enhanced the locks on classroom and dormitory doors to ensure that spaces may be secured from the inside. We continue to upgrade our emergency alert systems to enhance overall safety and security—these include voice/text messaging systems, lockdown buttons, video cameras, exterior weather and lockdown strobe lighting, mass notification systems, and more.
- **Campus Access & Verification**—We maintain a single point of entry onto the campus at the main entrance. We require that all visitors present identification at our main campus entrance, which includes a background check, prior to being issued a visitor's pass.
- **[FortifyFL](#)**—We continue to emphasize the importance of the FortifyFL mobile app or website for reporting suspicious activity, and our campus police can be notified via voice or text.
- **Threat Assessment**—We have a Care Team that identifies potential resources and interventions, including mental health services, for students whose behavior may impact school safety.

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- Student Training—We provide campus-wide student education opportunities including bullying and harassment prevention, drug awareness and resistance through education, Internet safety and digital citizenship, teen dating abuse prevention, and more.
- Parental Notification—We encourage you to opt-in for text messages in the Skyward Family Access portal. By doing so, this allows us to send you emergency and non-emergency alerts.

All of us at FSDB value your involvement and support, and we encourage you to talk with your child about the importance of school safety and security. As we move forward into the new school year, please rest assured that we are committed to a safe and secure campus for all students.

On behalf of the FSDB Board of Trustees and staff members, I extend our best wishes for a successful school year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne Glidden Prickett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Jeanne Glidden Prickett  
President