

Pleasantdale Elementary School
8100 School Street
La Grange, IL 60525
708.246.4700 Fax: 708.246.4625



Pleasantdale Middle School
7450 S. Wolf Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
708.246.3210 Fax: 708.352.0092

Pleasantdale School District 107 | 7450 S. Wolf Road | Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 708.784.2013 | Fax: 708.246.0161 | www.d107.org

Recent events in our country have caused schools and districts to re-evaluate their safety plans and reflect on how to best keep students, staff, and visitors safe in school. In Pleasantdale School District 107, school safety is our top priority. We employ such safety measures as keeping schools locked and requiring visitors to enter through a secure door. Additionally, we practice a wide range of safety drills throughout the course of the school year. Each school observes the district's crisis plan, which acts as a guide in the event of an emergency. School district officials also meet with first responders (Willow Springs Police Department, Burr Ridge Police Department, and Pleasantview Fire Protection District) annually to review safety plans.

The district makes great efforts to keep students and staff safe at school, and these efforts have resulted in schools that are ahead of the curve when it comes to student, staff, and visitor safety. However, there is always room for improvement. With that said, it is the district's practice to convene a safety audit every four years. The audit is then reviewed by a district safety task force, which develops a three-year safety plan to be reviewed and approved by the Board. To ensure that a broad range of stakeholders' voices are heard and to ensure transparency in the process, the task force is made up of parents, teachers, administrators, secretaries, and students. This group employed the help of school safety consultant Paul Timm. While the district safety plan guides our improvements, we do make adjustments as new information becomes available. After the Nashville school shooting, we learned that glass doors are a vulnerability point and, therefore, have added shatter-resistant sheeting to our entry points as phase one of adding this sheeting.

Paul Timm, Vice President of Physical Security, is a board-certified Physical Security Professional (PSP), the author of *School Security: How to Build and Strengthen a School Safety Program*, and a nationally acclaimed expert in school security. In addition to conducting numerous vulnerability assessments and his frequent keynote addresses, Mr. Timm is an experienced School Crisis Assistance Team volunteer through the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA). He is an active member of ASIS International's School Safety & Security Council and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials' Risk Management Committee. Mr. Timm also served on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) School Security Subcommittee. He is certified in Vulnerability Assessment Methodology (VAM) through Sandia National Laboratories and the ALPHA(tm) vulnerability assessment methodology. He holds a degree in Speech Communications and a Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Illinois.

During the 2021-22, Mr. Timm performed a physical security assessment of our buildings and submitted a report to the task force for review. Overall, there were specific recommendations that are reflected in the Board approved safety plan found below. When Mr. Timm addressed the task force, he explained that the most high-value security measures focused on access control (who can get into your school) and communication (how well information is transferred from one person to another). To that end, we have focused our efforts and will continue to make these a priority. In addition to Mr. Timm's recommendations, the plan reflects the task

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force members’ experiences within our schools. The three-year plan is meant to act as a roadmap as we work to make our schools safer.

Below is the table that outlines the full plan.

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Ensure all radios work and purchase additional two-way radios	Install a flashing beacon at the Wolf Road Crossing	Update intercom/telephone integration (PMS)	Parking lot safety (reconfigure) (PMS)
Ensure all staff are consistently wearing school-issued IDs	Additional bike racks at PMS	Cordon off recess/play areas at PES	Improved recess area for PMS
Cut down vegetation around the schools to ensure better visibility	Improved wayward signage in and around the schools	Additional undesignated medications throughout the schools	Limit elevator access at PES
Ensure all classroom phones are properly labeled	Use of colored lanyards to clearly identify visitors, workers, and others	Unannounced evacuation drills	Additional Visitor Management kiosk in the PMS office
Address exterior lighting	Improved phones training	Address building access for staff and provide staff with individual access codes	Improve interior/exterior doors (fobs/magnets/signage)
Fencing for detention area at PES	Ongoing CrisisGO training		
Test panic buttons annually	Hotspot at each building		
Crossing guard safety vest	Clear procedures for before and after school and lunch duty/recess and expand communications		

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In year one we find a mix of new access management and communication initiatives as well as an update to procedures. There are some costs associated with these updates. Beyond the cost of time and effort, we looked to purchase additional two-way radios, improve outdoor lighting, and improve procedures. The district did not install fencing around the new detention area at PES. It was anticipated that this area would fill with water during heavy rains. However, it appears that the stormwater management system that was installed can accommodate heavy rains. We will continue to monitor this area and ensure it remains safe for our students.

In addition to the safety improvements found in our plan, the district has also made improvements to cyber safety within the district. We have improved our device monitoring and filtering capabilities to ensure that students don't navigate to the darker parts of the web. We have also implemented measures to ensure the district does not fall victim to a cyber attack. However, if the district should fall prey to such an attack, we can have our systems restored within 24 to 48 hours. We have upgraded our visitor management system to a more reliable and easier-to-use platform. Finally, we have had our network security measures evaluated by an outside agency to ensure our current practices align with the best safety and security practices within the industry.

The school safety planning task force believes these interventions will result in a safer school. The district sincerely thanks the members of the committee, whose names and roles can be found below. In addition to the committee members below, Matt Russian and Laurie Murray from the Pleasant Dale Park District participated in the committee.

Parents	Teachers	Staff	Admin	Students
Katie Raschka	Almir Emso	Terry Maly	Griffin Sonntag	Adam S.
Jim Gainer	Jennifer Newberry	Stacey Tantillo	Kathleen Tomei	Mekayla G.
Michelle Dzielak	Sally Ortiz	Erika Sawosko	Beth Parker	Gorazd G.
Becky Walters		John McAtee	Brianne Malatt	Abbey D.
Arlene Cabana		Brian Carr		Abbey P.
				Terrell P.