



Dear District 186 Families,

Over the past several days, we have seen our community surround the Lanphier Lions with love and support. The tragic loss of Pierre Scott is felt deeply by the students, staff, and families, and far beyond the school walls. We want to honor his life, and continue to care for those affected by this tragedy and other events in our community that impact our students and families.

We understand the distress and apprehension that this has caused many District 186 students and their families. Please know we are committed to providing a safe and productive learning environment every day for all students, and we continue to review both short-term and long-term security practices. We are also drawing upon the strong social and emotional resources in our District, with social workers and psychologists on hand at our schools for students who need support in the coming days.

In a District 186 and Springfield Police Department [press conference](#) yesterday, we discussed our commitment to making sure our staff and students feel safe and cared for, and how we will continue to listen and respond to their needs. We also noted that increased security measures will be in place over the coming days at our schools, and we plan to enhance our overall security practices and infrastructure and make adjustments as necessary.

Every building has emergency response plans that are followed, and staff have been trained for various scenarios. We thank our teachers and administrators for executing these plans competently and swiftly in the recent incident. Additional security measures that we utilize include scanning students with handheld metal detectors and locker searches by our K-9 handler and dog. We also employ School Resource Officers, District security staff and retired police officers as a means to conduct these measures and build relationships with students. We have increased our number of high resolution security cameras inside and outside all of our schools across the District as well. We are thinking about the short-term and long-term security in our buildings. Our facilities master plan includes designs for secure entrances that are also wired to accommodate metal detectors. We are also researching mobile metal detectors beyond our handheld scanners to assist us with searches.

We appreciate our families and welcome their input and vigilance during these trying times. Please be assured that we are always looking out for the best interest of our students and wish to maintain complete transparency and open communication with all District 186 families. We also ask you to encourage students to come forward, and remind them "if you see something, say something." I thank you for the privilege of educating your children each day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer E. Gill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" being the most prominent part.

Jennifer E. Gill
Superintendent

JENNIFER E. GILL • Superintendent

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