



SAFETY GUIDE

The safety and well-being of Dayton Christian students, staff, and community is our top priority. We recognize it is only when students and staff feel safe and are physically and mentally well that they can learn, teach, and reach their full potential.

This guide highlights our safety initiatives and informs you, our community, of the ways in which you can help us to keep safety our top priority. Together, we can do this through a combination of focused physical, social-emotional, cyber, and crisis response security efforts.

PHYSICAL SAFETY

Physical safety refers to the protection of all stakeholders—including students, staff, families and the community—from violence, theft, and exposure to weapons and threats. Physical safety establishes a secure learning environment. Below are some of the tactics we have in place to secure the physical safety of our school community.

- All schools conduct fire, tornado, and safety drills throughout the school year.
- Video cameras are used to monitor activity on campus 24/7.
- All visitors must sign in and wear a visitor badge while on school property.
- All volunteers must pass a criminal background check.
- We employ a School Resource Officer which affords us armed protection.
- Select staff members are CPR/AED certified.
- **Run, Hide, Fight**, an active shooter response training, is reviewed with students annually.
- Threat Assessment Team meets to review processes and protocols quarterly.
- All Pre-K-12th grade students have access to a health clinic.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

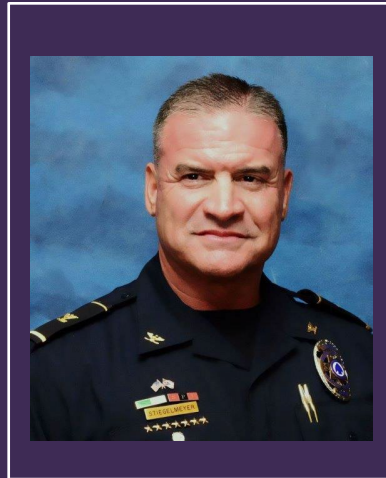
Social-emotional health is the ability to understand and manage our emotions. We help students form social connections and relationships with the world around them. We know that when students and staff are healthy both socially and emotionally, it reduces the chance for other types of safety concerns. That's why at Dayton Christian we are hyper-focused on making sure every student feels connected to their peers and has a mentor available. Social-emotional wellness is a key component of the decision-making process. Here are a few ways we support the social-emotional wellness of our students and staff.

Social-emotional curriculum is incorporated at every level:

- Dayton Children's Youth and Family Resource Connections connects families to outside counseling and agency support as needed.
- Extracurricular Opportunities (clubs and/or sports) are provided at every school to engage students in high-interest areas and help them foster relationships.
- Select staff are trained in Nonviolent Crisis Prevention through the Crisis Protection Institute.
- SEL Lessons are offered in grades K-12 in whole group and small group settings where students learn to make friends, get along with others, identify emotions and build coping skills.
- We use the safety and mental health curriculum through the Monique Barr Foundation. The lessons are provided to students in grades K-9.
- Care Portal connects students' tangible needs to church members who can meet them.
- Montgomery County ESC, through their Family Engagement Program, supports the family system by connecting them to local agencies.
- Chapel, Biblical Integration within lesson planning, and prayerful faculty and staff all contribute to the social-emotional health of your child.



Brandon Barnett
Miami Valley District Fire Chief



Charlie Stieglmeyer
Miami Township Chief of Police

CYBER SAFETY

Dayton Christian School has a responsibility to teach students to use technology safely. We also protect the district's network from viruses and other cyber threats. We take the following cyber safety precautions:

- Use 24/7 monitoring and content filtering for student devices while in use on and off-campus (*Securly* and *Untangle*).
- Utilize antivirus and antimalware programs to protect staff and student user accounts from being compromised.



CRISIS RESPONSE

School crises can include anything from a weather event, power outage, cyber-attack, or an active shooter situation, etc. Dayton Christian School works with local, state and federal agencies to ensure we are prepared for any event that has the potential to impact the safety of our school community. The district:

- Fosters good relationships with the Miami Valley Fire District and the Miami Township Police Department.
- Routinely participates in tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises using hypothetical scenarios to plan for a variety of crisis situations.
- Trains staff on the use of **Run, Hide, Fight** for response to a catastrophic event.
- Maintains up-to-date Emergency Operations Plans that outline what to do in the case of an emergency. These plans are reviewed and approved by the State of Ohio.

If there is a crisis, we promise our families that we will communicate with them as quickly as possible while focusing first on the safety of our students and staff.

Here is how you can help us resolve a crisis:

- Proactive prayer for the safety of students and staff.
- Don't call the school. Phone lines may be needed for emergency communication.
- Don't go to the school. This can restrict first responders' ability to access the building, and in some situations, students may be relocated to another place.
- Don't share information you don't know to be true on social media. It is critical that we focus on the safety issue at hand without fighting misinformation.
- Make sure your contact information is up to date in DC Connect; please email the school office with any changes. We will use this information to communicate updates via phone, text and email as often as possible.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Our work in the area of safety and well-being is never complete. Students thrive in schools and districts that focus on continuous improvement and the coordination of policy, processes, and practices that address the holistic needs of every student. We believe we have a solid foundation of school safety but more work is necessary to continue to keep our schools as safe as possible. Here are some of the ways we are working to improve our efforts:

- Routinely seek additional funding through grants. Most recently, we were able to use ESSER (COVID-19 relief) funding to hire additional staff to assist with the social-emotional needs of our students and families.
- Survey community members and gather feedback through school sponsored surveys.
- Meet with the Miami Valley Police Department and Montgomery County EMA supervisors to tour all buildings and point out areas of concern.

RESOURCES

Parents, students, and staff can use the *Safer Ohio School Tip Line*. Call 844-723-3764 to anonymously report information to school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety. The tip line can be used for:

- Bullying and cyberbullying incidents
- Self-harm or suicidal behaviors
- Verbal or written threats observed toward students, staff or the school itself
- Weapons/suspicious devices on or near school grounds
- Gang-related activity
- Illegal drug use

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988.



DAYTON CHRISTIAN SAFETY AND SECURITY SPECIALIST



Tim Thomas

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT SCHOOL SAFETY

According to the American Psychological Association, parents/caregivers are the single most influential people in a child's life. Parents/caregivers make students feel safe and equip them with the resources and skills they need to be successful as adults.

Here are some ways you can ensure your child stays safe at school or wherever they may go.

1. **Pray.** Above all else, pray and teach your children to pray for the safety of their family and school.
2. **See Something Say Something.** Teach your child to say something to a trusted adult anytime they see something out of the ordinary or feel as if something is off.
3. **Make time to talk.** Asking your child about their day reinforces that you care and encourages them to share information openly and honestly.
4. **Reassure them.** Reassure your child that schools and other social settings are safe.
5. **Review safety procedures.** This will look different depending on the age of your child.

For example, in early elementary school, this may include teaching them to look both ways before they cross the street and helping them to memorize their phone number and/or address. In high school it may involve reminding them not to text while driving and not to talk to people they don't know on social media.

We all play a part in keeping our schools and community safe. Thank you for supporting your child and Dayton Christian School.



KEY DEFINITIONS & COMMUNICATION PROCESSES

SCHOOL CLOSURE - When schools are temporarily closed due to inclement weather, loss of utilities, or another unexpected event.

Communication Plan: We will communicate via phone call, text message, email, social media, and WHIO as soon as possible. Our goal is to make a decision no later than 5:30 AM each day.

FULL-SCALE DRILL – State mandated safety exercises that could include, but are not limited to, the practice of evacuation or lockdown procedures.

Communication Plan: No less than 24 hours prior to the drill, information will be phoned, texted, and emailed to parents. We will send a text out when the drill is completed.

INVESTIGATION PROCESS– Students stay in their rooms but there is **no immediate threat** to those in the building.

Communication Plan: We will text and email details at the end of the school day or sooner if possible.

LOCKDOWN - When an emergency affecting the school prevents the safe evacuation of a building, staff and students are put on lockdown or kept inside the building and/or their classroom.

Communication Plan: We will communicate, via phone call, as soon as possible and will follow up when the lockdown has cleared with more detailed information via text and email.

EVACUATION - When staff and students are asked to leave the building due to safety concerns. If it is believed the evacuation is temporary, staff and students will stay on-site. If the safety concern is believed to be a prolonged event, staff and students may be relocated to an off-site location.

Communication Plan: We will communicate, via phone call, text, and email as soon as the building has been evacuated and students/staff are deemed safe. A detailed email will follow after the school day has been completed or sooner if possible.

REUNIFICATION - Takes place when staff and students have been relocated to an off-site location after an evacuation and families are required to pick up their student(s).

Communication Plan: We will update as often as necessary and provide logistical information via phone call, text, and email.

Please note: Each situation has its own set of challenges that may change when and how we communicate with families. Our goal remains to communicate with you as often and transparently as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding in the event of a safety situation.

