



Principal
Howard I. Weiner

Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Parents:

Since that fateful day on the campus of Columbine Senior High School on April 20, 1999 where twelve students and one teacher died, the issue of school safety has screamed out from the headlines of America's newspapers and media outlets. Accordingly, school districts throughout our nation have required schools to develop lockdown plans to protect students and staff members from threats emanating from both off campus and on campus. At Miami Palmetto Senior High School, we are working on the implementation of an improved security plan to limit entry points for students, parents, and visitors. When completed, this plan will inconvenience some who are accustomed to an open and relaxed atmosphere, coming and going as they please. However, the time is ripe for school safety and common sense to prevail.

Recent events have taught us that there are two major threats to school safety. One from the outside, and the other from the inside. The outside threat is represented by an individual who comes on campus without permission. This person can be easily identified by school officials if he/she does not have the one thing that all Miami Palmetto Senior High School students and staff have – **a school issued photo identification badge**. This badge clearly states that this person has legitimate business on our campus. It is currently a requirement that an ID badge should be worn at all times by students and staff while on school grounds. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary measures. Parents should impress upon their children that this is a serious issue.

The other serious matter is the inside threat represented by an individual who belongs on campus but wishes to do harm. This person represents a threat, which can be dealt with if authorities are alerted. Current sources indicate that the threat from within is not usually a secret. Individuals who plan attacks often talk about it to their friends. Schools are places where news travels fast; information like this must be reported immediately even if it appears to be untrue or unbelievable. Students with this information have a responsibility to step forward, reach out, and share it with a trusted teacher, counselor, custodian, cafeteria worker, security monitor, assistant principal, or principal.

Miami Palmetto Senior High School is an exemplary educational institution with a tradition of academic excellence and a safe learning environment. The continuation of such is contingent upon the cooperation of all who enter through our doors each and every day. School safety and common sense cannot function independently. They are not exclusive acts. I implore each of you to assist in this effort by demanding that your teenager wear his/her ID badge daily and to have them pledge from this day forward to report their awareness of potential incidents immediately to a responsible adult.

Thank you,

Howard Weiner
Principal