

## Safety and Security Changes at Elementary Buildings

In an effort to provide a safe and secure environment for Central Middle School and Central Elementary School, CUSD # 3 is making changes to the entrances of these buildings. Over the past several years there has been a sharp increase in the number of security related incidents at public schools and universities across the country. In order to be proactive our district is taking measures to improve security into our elementary buildings. We ask that you understand that these changes are for the safety of the students and staff and want to keep parents informed of these changes.

Recently we have installed at each entrance to both elementary buildings security cameras with a live feed into each building's office. This will allow for the secretaries and principal to see who is at the entrance of their building before that individual is allowed to enter. Magnetic door locks have also been installed at these entrances. This will allow the buildings to keep all exterior doors locked. Entrance to the building will occur after the secretary has "tripped" the magnetic door lock. In the next few weeks we will also install an intercom at each entrance to allow any individual entering the building to speak with the office before gaining access to the building. This will allow the building employees to identify any person seeking to enter the building before they enter. Anyone visiting our schools will be asked to sign in at the office and wear a "Visitor" badge to identify that person for the entire staff.

While these measures may seem somewhat drastic, the world we are living in today is much different than it was 25 years ago. In the "good ole' days" students, parents, and staff members never had to worry about events like we are seeing today in public schools and universities. The sad reality is that times have changed and as a district we also have to change in order to meet the needs of our children.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> the Adams County Special Response Team (SRT) will visit our elementary schools and conduct assemblies. The assembly will help introduce our students to the SRT and allow them to explain what their job is in the event of a crisis. We hope that by having the SRT speak with our students they will be better prepared to handle an actual crisis. On April 1st CMS and CES will be practicing school safety drills with the SRT. A brief mock drill will take place to allow for students and staff to practice safety drill procedures.

School safety and security should always be a top priority for any school district. We hope that by taking these measures the children of our district are better protected and better prepared for any challenge they may face. If you should ever have any questions as a parent, feel free to call the Superintendent's office for more information.