



Perrysburg
Schools

Parent Safety Task Force Newsletter

Spring 2021

Parent Safety Task Force

Our Mission

To share information and promulgate new ideas about school safety among the school district, local emergency services, city resources and families in order to ensure the highest level of education and understanding across the local school community.

The Parent Safety Task Force is composed of a parent representative from each school building. For contact information please visit <http://www.perrysburgschools.net/ParentSafetyTaskForce.aspx>

Internet Safety for Kids

Internet safety for kids depends on parents/guardians being aware of online risks and understanding how to help their children and teens avoid them.

Almost every American child and teen has access to the internet. They socialize in online games or on smartphones just as they would on a playground. They live largely in a digital community. But like any community, there are risks and dangers.

Teaching your children about the online risks they may face and how to avoid or report threats is one of the most important steps you can take to ensure their safety online.

You can take an active role in protecting your kids from online risks. Much of it is monitoring how they use the internet and how they access it. Some of it can be as simple as helping them set up their online access.

Also make sure your children don't open any social media accounts or download social media apps until they are at least 13 years old. That's not just a safety tip, it's the law. The Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule was passed in 1998 to protect kids' online privacy.



April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Distracted driving claimed 3,142 lives in 2019 – a 10% increase from 2018, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

NHTSA defines distracted driving as any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction, according to NHTSA: sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

NHTSA offers the following tips for a safe ride every time:

- Need to send a text? Pull over and park your car in a safe location. Only then is it safe to send or read a text.
- Designate your passenger as your “designated texter.” Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not scroll through apps, including social media, while driving. Cell phone use can be habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk, glove box or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

Safety Town

The City of Perrysburg, with the cooperation of the Perrysburg Police Division, has been providing kindergarten and first graders in our community with Safety Town since 1970. The program offers children who live or plan to attend school in the Perrysburg School District with basic safety education focusing on pedestrian, bicycle, bus, and recreational safety. Safety Town is held at Woodland Elementary and runs for two weeks in June with a morning and afternoon session to choose from. At the end of two weeks the students participate in a closing exercise. While at Safety Town the students get a chance to ride to the elementary schools on a school bus and will receive bicycle helmets to take home. There is a \$35 cost, which covers materials, snacks, drinks, equipment, and personnel. All teachers and police officers are fully certified. Safety Town usually fills up fast and unfortunately both sessions are already full for this summer.

Talking to your kids about school threats

In light of the recent threat investigated at Perrysburg High School, the Parent Safety Task Force wants to provide some additional resources.

The aftermath of these events can leave parents and students very unsure. Below are links to some helpful articles around this topic. We have summarized some tips below for parents/guardians.

[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents/Guardians and Teachers](#)

[Coping with violence](#)

Provide a safe space to talk: Often as parents/guardians we find ourselves having difficult conversations with our children. It is important we provide them a safe space to talk about difficult topics like school safety when they are ready. It is also important that as parents/guardians we also address the topic.

Remind your child that they are safe: It is important to share with your child that schools are safe. Share the school districts safety plan with your child and review the information their teachers and administrators have shared with them.

Keep your explanations age appropriate: Additional details on age specific conversations are outlined in the NASP article, you can find by [clicking here](#).



Perrysburg Schools will be providing a presentation on the district's threat assessment protocol during the Board of Education Work Session this coming Tuesday, May 4th @ 7:30 am. We have included the links below for your reference. Board agendas for upcoming meetings are typically posted on the Friday prior to a Board of Education meeting.

[**Perrysburg YouTube page**](#)

[**Board Agendas**](#)