



MALVERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of Leopards

“Where PASSION, PRIDE, & EXCELLENCE are expected.”

Brian Golden
Superintendent of Schools
Jace Roberts
Chief of Staff

1620 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MALVERN, ARKANSAS 72104
501-332-7500, FAX: 501-332-7501

Lillian Harper
Assistant Superintendent
Gerald Hatley
Assistant Superintendent

February 2018

The difficult topic in schools today are mass shootings, and unfortunately day by day, these incidents are becoming a greater threat to all schools, malls, movie theatres, hospitals, etc. As a student at Pratt Elementary, I can remember our teachers opening the side door of their classroom in the spring because it was a nice day to enjoy. Needless to say if you went to Pratt, Fields, or MJHS, you recall that all the classroom walls to the outside of classrooms were entirely windows. Times have changed!

After the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012, our district felt charged **more than ever** to protect our students. Even though Malvern and other parts of the state are small communities, districts need to know this is not an urban area problem. For the last five years, we have updated our Emergency Management Plan (EMP) which includes other possible emergency situations than an active shooter. Our teachers have been trained and drilled in case an EMP has to be activated. Staff members have an emergency phone app that allows them to communicate emergencies to other staff and authorities. An additional school resource officer was hired and placed in our schools a few years ago. Our EMP has been coordinated and is reviewed annually with our community emergency management personnel. At parent/teacher conferences this week, an EMP meeting was conducted with all parents who wished to attend. Please know the district cannot discuss any and all parts of an EMP. Some of the information must remain confidential for the safety of our students and staff. We are aware this is frustrating for some, but please understand it is for safety purposes.

With all of these mechanisms in place, the district has taken and continues to take steps to deter incidents of this severe nature from occurring. Unfortunately, no act of this type of violence is preventable. Not a day goes by, that I do not think about the safety of our kids. I personally have 2000 kids in our schools, not just 2. Everything we do is thought of in this capacity. Protection of young people is not a “paternal” thing. It is a responsibility arising out of our PASSION for kids. Again not preventable, but the district is taking every step to deter, train, and drill. With all this being discussed, our community will need to continue to keep the students, staff, and families of the Stoneman Douglas High School in their thoughts and prayers.

On a different note, our district has been selected to host the baseball and softball regional tournament. The dates for the regionals are May 3rd – 5th. We are also hosting the softball district tournament. The district tournament will be held the week prior to the regionals. Exact dates and times have not been determined for the district tournament. Please check our website after spring break for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the park!

February’s “Students of the Month” were recognized at the school board meeting this past month. Each student received a certificate of appreciation, a \$25 gift card to Walmart, and a Malvern Leopard gift bag (sponsored by the Malvern Leopard Foundation). Congratulations to the following recognized students!

February – SOM:

Bradley Gay – Kindergarten
DJ Amos - 3rd Grade
Aryan McGee – 6th Grade
Ethan Braziel – 9th Grade
Keeley Frye – 12th Grade

Jolett Cervantes - 1st Grade
Kyler Wright - 4th Grade
Arric Clegg – 7th Grade
Christian Warren – 10th Grade

Laila Byerly - 2nd Grade
Winterbrez Gragg – 5th Grade
Veronika Jergenson – 8th Grade
Amyus Hunter – 11th Grade

Thank you for your continued support of our schools!
Brian Golden, Superintendent
Malvern School District