



Utica High School

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Dear Utica Families:

As we look to begin a new school year, safety and security remain priorities for our school. As you may know, two initiatives, student lanyards and K-9 unit visits, were implemented last year and will continue moving forward.

Lanyards and student ID cards will be provided to students during our upcoming Chieftain Days registration. Students will be required to have their ID card in their possession and visible at all times while at school and school related functions as it easily identifies them as Utica High School students. Our student handbook (<http://uticak12.org/handbook>) provides more information about this process and how we will address instances where students do not have their lanyards. The quick identification of staff and students remains an important part of our high school safety plan. The concept also prepares our students for college and career environments, as many secondary institutions and workplaces now issue ID cards as part of their protocols.

Additionally, Utica Community Schools, in partnership with the Shelby Township Police Department, will continue implementation of safety inspections using the department's K-9 unit. The K-9 unit is specifically trained to identify prohibited materials or substances that should not be on school property. Unlike last year when the K-9 visit was announced, inspection dates this year will be unannounced.

Substances or materials that are prohibited in our school are referenced in both Board of Education Policy (Policy 5100 - Student Conduct and Policy on Suspension and Expulsion - <http://uticak12.org/policies>) and the high school handbook. Students found in violation of the policy face disciplinary consequences.

These initiatives are critical components of our district and school safety plans. If you have any questions, please contact our school office.

Sincerely,

Tom Lietz
Principal